

Hafa Adai!

Man, 33, pleads guilty to sexual abuse of a girl. **PAGE 3**
Congressional delegation to also visit Rota. **PAGE 5**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 30

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2017

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Cashiers get to choose who to card

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new law now gives cashiers the choice whether to ask for an ID from customers who are buying alcoholic beverages or tobacco.

House Bill 19-141, HD1, SS1 gives employees of any commercial establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages and tobacco the discretion whether or not ask for any identification cards from customers who are buying these products.

The bill, authored by Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), is now Public
See CASHIERS on Page 4

Judge orders release of M/V *Luta*

» Cargo ship to be released after payment of custodial fees, now amounting to \$189,323

» Tentative ruling favors M/V *Luta* owners, against Yamamoto

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court directed Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto and three others to pay by tomorrow, Tuesday, their shares in custodial fees now amounting to \$189,323 for cargo vessel M/V *Luta*.

After the amount is paid to the custodian, National Maritime Ser-
See JUDGE on Page 4

\$75M hotel set to start construction

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO
demalynn_pagarao@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The \$75-million, 438-room, hotel that Globe International Group plans to build south of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School would now proceed, after the Commonwealth zoning board approved

its parking lot plans.

The plan has been on hold at Commonwealth Zoning since December due to parking lot issues. The zoning board finally approved the variance of 75 percent of the required parking space so the developer can start construction.

The board initially approved a

parking lot with 944 slots.

"This was the zoning staff calculations based on the amount of activity that will be going on at this facility," said Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro.

Global International asked for about a 75 percent of the 944, stat-

See HOTEL on Page 4



VEHICLE ON FIRE

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Firefighters extinguish the fire that engulfed a Toyota Camry on As Terlaje Hill near the Northern Marianas College on Friday afternoon. The car's driver, a 19-year-old man, was not injured. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has yet to release information about the cause of the fire and details about the incident.

See story on Page 2

FDA recalls chewing tobacco products

The Office of the Attorney General announced Friday a recall by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration of chewing tobacco products manufactured by U.S. Smokeless Tobacco

Co. due to consumer complaints of foreign metal objects found in select cans.

In a notice on Friday, the OAG informed and cautioned Common-

wealth consumers and businesses (both wholesalers and retailers) about the recall affecting these well-known brands: Copenhagen, Skoal, Cope, and Husky.

"This massive recall may impact Commonwealth consumers who purchase these products as well as Commonwealth businesses who sell these products. I want to make sure that consumers who typically pur-

See FDA on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe play golf.

PAGE 15



ASIA

A powerful night-time earthquake in the southern Philippines kills at least six people.

PAGE 16



WORLD

Two rockets land in Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone on Saturday night.

PAGE 17



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Kilili appointed to Veterans' Affairs Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has been appointed to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, it was announced this week. Veterans' Affairs will be Sablan's third committee, which required a special waiver from the usual two-committee limit for members of the Democratic caucus.

"Veterans in the Marianas need more attention," Sablan said. "Too often, veterans and their families in the islands—and around the nation—are for-

gotten, after giving so much.

"So I went to Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and asked for a waiver of the caucus rule that would allow me to serve on Veterans' Affairs without giving up my other equally important committee assignments.

"After listening to my explanation of the situation for our Marianas veterans, [Pelosi] submitted my request to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee with her recommendation for its approval. And the Committee voted this week

approving my request.

"I am very appreciative; and I look forward to the new opportunities that being on Veterans' Affairs will give me to work for my constituents."

The Northern Marianas delegate already serves on the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over insular affairs. He is also on the Education and the Workforce Committee, where he recently won the ranking member seat on the subcommittee in charge of health, employment, labor, and pension

issues nationwide. And in this Congress, for the first time, Sablan is a member of the subcommittee responsible for federal college and university programs in the United States.

"With seniority and experience in Congress comes the expectation that you will take a leadership role," Sablan said. "I am willing to do that, especially when it gives me new ways to help the people I work for in the Marianas."

Sablan said he especially looks forward to membership on the Veterans' Affairs

Committee because the new ranking member, Tim Walz (D-Minnesota), is energetic and eager to get veterans what they need.

"Tim Walz graduated from West Point, he served in the National Guard for almost 25 years, many of his staff are veterans—he knows what the needs are and he knows how to get things done. I have already invited him to come to the Marianas and meet with our veterans; and Mr. Walz' staff has already been working with us to kick up the level of service to Marianas veterans."

Even before appointment to the Committee, Sablan had begun focusing more of the congressional office's time and resources on the needs of veterans. This month he is hosting a Veterans Resources Fair on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. On Veterans Day he presented a special "Welcome Home" tribute to Marianas Vietnam veterans to mark the 50th anniversary of the war.

And last year he put the Northern Marianas Humanities Council together with filmmaker and veteran Tom Voss, who brought the documentary of his struggle with post-traumatic stress syndrome to the islands. Voss then followed up with a Power Breath Meditation Workshop that has proven a powerful tool in the treatment of PTSD.

About two dozen veterans, family, and friends attended the training.

In 2015 Sablan began introducing veterans in the Marianas to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, which shows interested members of the public how to collect oral histories and document memorabilia from veterans about their service. The records then become part of the permanent collection of the Library of Congress. Several Marianas veterans have already added their experience to this national archive.

Sablan has also been active legislatively. In 2014, he worked to include language in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, to help veterans, such as those on Rota and Tinian, who have to travel by air to reach a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility. The resulting Veterans Choice Cards allow veterans in rural areas to obtain care from qualified non-VA providers closer to where the veterans live.

"I look forward to working even harder for veterans as a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee," the Sablan said. "They earned it." (PR)

Car catches fire on As Terlaje Hill

A car being driven by a 19-year-old student caught fire on As Terlaje Hill near the Northern Marianas College on Friday afternoon.

No one was injured. The male student managed to get out of the car on time.

The fire engulfed the Toyota Camry, with license plate ACX-760.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has yet to release information about the incident to the media.

Saipan Tribune learned that the student was driving the car along Monsignor Guerrero Road on his way to NMC when he noticed smoke inside the car so he immediately parked it on a small road on As Terlaje Hill.

The student alighted from the car as the fire spread and engulfed the car. Firefighters came and extinguished the blaze a few minutes later.

The fire caused traffic for an hour on Monsignor Guerrero Road.

The student's father, who later arrived at the scene, said it was the first car they bought for their son.

The student had just come from Marianas High School, where he is a teacher aide.

The cause of the blaze is still unknown. (Ferdie de la Torre)



ON-SITE TOUR

From left, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, Senate Vice President Steve K. Mesnagon, and Sen. Sixto K. Igiso-mar on Friday led the Senate's inspection of the progress of the \$550-million Imperial Pacific Hotel and Resort being built by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. in the heart of Saipan's business district.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

■ Tuesday, February 21st 8:30am - 4:00pm
 ■ Wednesday, February 22nd 8:30am - 4:00pm
 at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan



**Ross
Hearing
Aids**

All interested patients should call
 Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid



Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
 Board Certified in Hearing
 Instrument Sciences
 Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

Man, 33, pleads guilty to sexual abuse of a girl

A 33-year-old man who fled to Guam after being accused of sexually abusing two minors here pleaded guilty last week as part of a plea deal.

Sidney A. Aldan pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree relating to one victim. He will be sentenced on June 27, 2017, at 1:30pm.

Under the plea deal, Aldan shall be sentenced to between eight years and 20 years imprisonment.

Aldan was ordered to pay \$100 in court costs, register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registr, and submit to examinations focusing on sex offender counseling.

The amended information charged Aldan with one count of sexual assault in the second degree and one count

of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Aldan pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Aldan, who was 28 to 30 years old when the alleged incident happened, is accused of having sex with the girl, who was then under 13 years old, from 2011 to 2013.

A Crime Stoppers' tip led to Aldan's arrest in March 2016 in Koblerville.

Police state that one of its officers, Jason Tarkong, reported receiving a tip via Crime Stoppers about sexual abuse of a minor involving several victims.

According to one girl, Aldan had been sexually abusing her since she was in first grade and that the last incident occurred when she was in fourth grade.

According to a second girl, Aldan touched her private parts thrice. The second girl claimed that the first victim once wrote a letter to her, saying Aldan touched her also. The second girl said her mother found the letter and confronted her if Aldan was also sexually abusing her. The second girl said she cried and told her mother the truth. She said her mother talked to Aldan and then called the police.

She said Aldan, however, fled to Guam.

The second girl said that in 2015, Aldan came back from Guam. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

MVA worries about safety of Grotto divers after sundown

The Marianas Visitors Authority intends to cooperate with other government agencies to impose diving restrictions at the CNMI's famous dive site, the Grotto.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce expressed concerns about the number of tourists diving at the Grotto in the evening, when there is no lifeguard and only a security guard is on duty.

There is one lifeguard stationed at the Grotto in the daytime. A security personnel is on duty only up to 5pm.

Aldan-Pierce brought the issue up during the MVA regular board meeting last week.

"To make our tourist sites more safe, I believe we need to meet with DPS and others regarding this. Do we continue to allow divers to come in at 5pm?"

MVA board member Jerry Tan agreed with Aldan-Pierce regarding the safety of tourists.

"We have to be mindful that some of our tourist markets don't swim because [they] come from a country that is landlocked," he said.

According to MVA, the Department of Public Safety has the authority to inform tourists whether it is safe to dive in the Grotto or not during high tide.

MVA data state that there were 35,000 Grotto visitors in January 2017.

"People are diving and going into the dangerous area of the Grotto. There is a rope there for safety and some of the people are going beyond the rope, get-

ting cuts from the rocks before getting saved by the lifeguards," said Aldan-Pierce.

"Our concern is, is one lifeguard enough? Because we know that it is not, if you have more than 10 people in the water," she added.

MVA has confirmed that talks with DPS are being planned but shared no specific date.

Another option MVA has been looking at is to close the Grotto once the security personnel leaves the area.

"One of the things we are looking at is actually closing down the Grotto after a certain time for safety reasons," said Aldan-Pierce.

MVA would also be looking at closing down Banzai Cliff in the evening.

"We used to [close] Banzai, but we have never tried it for the Grotto," she said. "Our visitors would be advised that this particular tourist site would be closed at a particular time. Whether it is 5pm or whether it is sundown, we are not sure yet."

Aldan-Pierce recognized that the Grotto is not only frequented by tourists but also by residents. Because of this, Aldan-Pierce said a public notice would be released if a decision to close the Grotto is made.

(Erwin Encinares)

ARMATECH

RF Door Lock
System Services
& Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

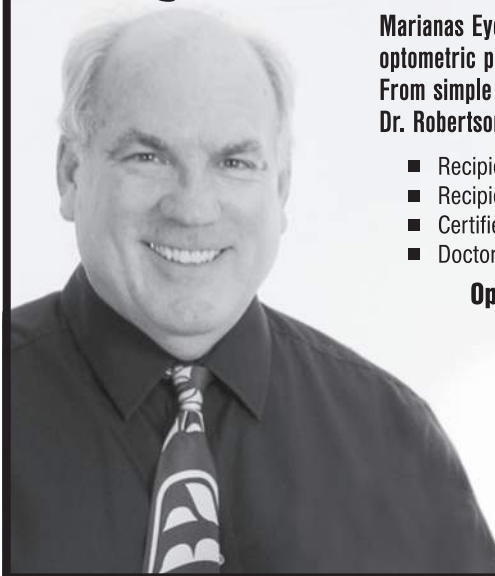
DPA CAR MART

WEEKLY SHIPMENT OF QUALITY PRE-OWNED
VEHICLE FROM U.S. MAINLAND



We accept special order, name it and will bring it here!
DOWN PAYMENT AS LOW AS \$1,000.00
Call 287-8688/235-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio
www.dpacarmart.com

"Expert Care....Every Day!"



Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff. From simple eye problems, to the most complex, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.

- Recipient of National Honors for Research in Eye Care
- Recipient of Optometric Recognition Award
- Certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Doctor of Optometry - "Magna Cum Laude"

Open six days a week, Mon - Sat, 8 am - 5 pm.

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

235-9090

Walk-in's welcome.
Beach Road Garapan.



Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Love and Reminiscence this Valentines

Couple's Dinner

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
6:00pm to 9:00pm
Price: \$88.00 per couple

*Seafood Buffet with Table-side
Certified Angus Beef Roast Prime Ribs
and Caesar Salad*

Ladies will receive fresh Red Rose flower

With romantic love songs on grand piano performance by Ms. Ruthi Fruit

Unlimited beers available

Daily Theme Lunch Buffet

11:00 to 2:00pm
\$15.00/Adult | \$8.00/Child

MONDAY	TUESDAY
Authentic Chinese with Hot Pots	Italian with Cioppino & Pasta Station Seafood Stew
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Korean with Bibimbap	Chamolinian with BBQ
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Japanese with Shabu-Shabu	International with Mongolian BBQ Station

Includes: Daily made appetizers, Crisp greens salad bar with condiments and choices of dressings, make your own sandwiches, Choices of freshly bake breads, Assorted Cheese platter and Nuts, Local fruits, Mouth watering desserts, Cakes, Ice cream and Bottomless Coca-Cola Soda fountain.

AQUA RESORT CLUB

Saipan

Please inquire also for group parties from 10 to 160 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

For reservation please call Aqua Resort Club @ 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732

Cook gets 5 years in prison for ‘ice’ possession

A restaurant cook who is allegedly a major supplier of methamphetamine or “ice” on Saipan pleaded guilty last week as part of a plea deal and was slapped with a five-year prison sentence.

Xiongying Xu, 48, a Chinese national, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Xu got credit for time served since his arrest last June 25, 2016, and was ordered to pay

a \$2,000 fine.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged him with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled

substance.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. later amended the charges to only a count of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Glass said it is in the best in-

terest of the Commonwealth to drop the other charges in view of Xu’s potential future cooperation with the OAG and Department of Public Safety and after careful review of the evidence and additional investigation conducted by the OAG.

A “cooperating defendant”

of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Office managed to buy 7 gross grams and 10.6 gross grams of “ice” from Xu during a buy-bust operation last June 25.

It was the “cooperating defendant” who allegedly revealed Xu’s drug activities. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

JUDGE

From Page 1

vices Inc., M/V *Luta* would be released back to its owner, Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood issued the oral order on Friday.

Abelita T. Mendiola is president of Luta Mermaid; Luta Mermaid’s members are Deron T. Mendiola and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Tydingco-Gatewood gave the order after hearing the issue whether M/V *Luta*’s arrest was unreasonable since Yamamoto is a joint venturer in the vessel.

Tydingco-Gatewood’s tentative ruling favors Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas, who filed a motion to declare Yamamoto’s maritime lien on the vessel invalid. The judge

said she will issue a written decision today, Monday.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Yamamoto to pay by Tuesday the ship’s custodian, National Maritime Services Inc., \$130,406 as his share in the custodial fees.

Failure to pay the fee by Tuesday may result in contempt proceedings against Yamamoto.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday to get comment from Yamamoto’s counsel, George Hasselback, about the judge’s tentative ruling, but he had yet to reply as of press time.

Tydingco-Gatewood also ordered the three groups of intervenors to pay their shares of custodial fees. The ship’s captain and crew were ordered to pay \$8,628; Long Consulting, \$14,095; and Norton Lilly, \$6,192.

Yamamoto filed initial custodial fees in the amount of \$30,000. The intervenors have

not filed their share of fees yet.

Tydingco-Gatewood is hoping that the relationship between Yamamoto and the Mendiolas is not totally broken down and there would be reconciliation.

Attorney William M. Fitzgerald, counsel for Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas, said reconciliation would be possible.

When asked for comments after the hearing, Fitzgerald said he does not want to say anything because the judge only made a tentative oral ruling.

Fitzgerald said Tydingco-Gatewood stated that her decision favors his client, Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas as to their motion to declare the maritime lien invalid.

“So I don’t want to say anything more than that because she could change her mind,” Fitzgerald said, adding that they are really happy, but that the ruling won’t be final until

the judge comes out with a written decision.

Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas, through Fitzgerald, asserted that Yamamoto was never entitled to a maritime lien on M/V *Luta* as he is a joint venturer with the Mendiolas.

Fitzgerald asked the court to invalidate the lien and vacate its order for the sale of M/V *Luta*.

The captain and crewmembers are demanding payment of \$183,648 in unpaid wages, while Long Consulting is claiming \$300,000 in unpaid services. Norton Lilly is claiming \$131,801 in unpaid services.

The fourth claimant, Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc., withdrew its motion to intervene after settling with the Mendiolas. The company claims that M/V *Luta* owes it \$165,766 in services, costs, fees, and interest.

Tom Liu, the contact person for Globe International Group, said, “Since the first conditional zoning permit has been given to us last December, we have been looking for additional private land in the San Roque area near our property. So far we have some inquiries, but none finalized yet. Because of the parking issue,

we have already eliminated a small shopping mall to be used for the backhouse, generator and other mechanical uses. Another alternative to reduce the number of parking space needed is to eliminate our bigger shopping mall and the ballroom space, but we want to divert from that because the main purpose of this project is

to attract tourists, and we feel those aspects of the hotel is the bigger seller.”

When chair Diego Blanco suggested eliminating a portion of at least the shopping center, zoning vice chair Bruce Bateman said, “If we ask them to ax off whatever number from their project it might make the project nonviable.”

HOTEL

From Page 1

ing that most of their transportation will be contracted to Saipan Travel, Inc. The board did approve a 50-percent difference of 472 slots.

The hotel will be complete with pools, restaurants,

a small shopping center, a larger shopping center, and staff housing units.

Christopher Fryling, the president of N15 Architecture Co. Inc., shared for comparison the parking spaces at the Marianas Business Plaza and the Joeten Susupe parking area.

“The Marianas Business Plaza, counting the front yard

under the solar panels, and the back parking, has a total of 225 spots. The Joeten Susupe complex, including the insurance company and the other building adjacent to Joeten along Beach Road, has 115 spots. So together that is 380 spots,” said Fryling. “That is a significantly more building space than Global International’s.”

CASHIERS

From Page 1

Law 19-84.

Maratita introduced the bill after customers, who are obviously of legal age when buying alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, complained every time cashiers ask for their ID, based on the carding requirements.

The original law, Public Law 11-75 and 17-83, required cashiers to card all cus-

tomers, regardless of their age.

HB 19-141 was introduced after finding that some of these laws’ provisions had an adverse effect in the community. Senior citizens and tourists who are over the age limit have complained about the carding requirement.

“There exists growing complaints in the community... as a result of the enforcement of the mandatory ID card requirement prior to selling any alcoholic beverage and tobacco products at the off-sale

and on-sale licensed establishments,” Maratita wrote.

Most of the complaints, Maratita said, were from senior citizens and tourists, “as well as a growing adverse community reaction with respect to the absurdness in demanding for a valid ID card on a daily basis from the same person, specifically from the retail establishment’s regular customer of legal age.”

While the intent of the mandatory ID card requirement is to prevent minors from con-

suming alcohol and tobacco products, the Legislature also recognizes and supports the rationality of repealing certain sections of the law.

PL 19-84’s amendment reads: Unless based on actual knowledge or reasonably certain that the person buying alcoholic beverage products is at least 21 years old [or any tobacco products is at 18 years old], no person or business establishment shall sell or permit his/her employee or agent to sell to any person without first

[asking] to present an ID.

Documents or IDs that could be presented must be issued either by the CNMI government and municipalities; the United States government, States or territories, or by a foreign government that has the person’s name, photo, sex, and date of birth showing he or she is of legal age.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, however, asked the Legislature to clarify some sections of PL 19-84. “Rather than vetoing the bill, I ask the Legisla-

ture’s further consideration to amend it by defining the terms ‘actual knowledge’ and ‘reasonably certain’ [in order] to capture and accurately represent the Legislature’s view in giving retail vendors the discretion to exercise prudent human judgment. Further, I ask the Legislature to insert language that holds accountable retail vendors who fail to make diligent inquiry as to whether the customer is, in fact, a minor,” added Torres.

FDA

From Page 1

chase these brands of chewing tobacco exercise extra caution to ensure their safety,” said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

“I would also like to emphasize that all Commonwealth businesses selling chewing tobacco need to exercise the highest level of corporate responsibility by exactly following the instructions in the FDA announcement in order to best

prevent consumer injuries,” Manibusan added.

Consumer counsel Michael J. Cyganek said: “It is very important that both retail businesses—businesses that sell directly to the consumer—and wholesaler businesses—businesses that sell to retail businesses that in turn sell to consumers—both follow the manufacturer’s instructions to segregate the recalled products from their respective inventories. Commonwealth businesses need to know that the manufacturer of the re-

called chewing tobacco products has expressed a willingness to help businesses return any impacted products for a refund.”

Cyganek advised that “if you as a consumer purchased one or more of the products identified in the FDA announcement, you should first off not use or even open the product, and secondarily if you want a refund you should contact the manufacturer by phone at 1-866-201-9136.”

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration announcement

states: “U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company is voluntarily recalling certain of its smokeless tobacco products, listed in the chart below, manufactured at USSTC’s facility in Franklin Park, IL.

“USSTC has notified the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of the recall and is working with federal authorities on this matter.

“USSTC initiated the recall after receiving eight consumer complaints of foreign metal objects, including sharp metal objects, found in select cans.

In each case, the object was visible to the consumer and there have been no reports of consumer injury. Complaints have been received from consumers in Indiana, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

“The products at issue were manufactured solely in USSTC’s Franklin Park, IL facility and distributed nationally. The majority of USSTC’s cans are not affected, including Copenhagen Fine Cut in a fiberboard can, Copenhagen Long Cut in a

fiberboard can and Copenhagen Long Cut Wintergreen in a plastic can.

“USSTC is instructing wholesalers and retailers to segregate the recalled products from their inventories. USSTC’s sales representatives will assist wholesalers and retailers in returning the product.

“A consumer who has any of the products listed in the table below should not open or use the product. Consumers should contact USSTC at 1-866-201-9136 to return the product for a refund.” (**OAG**)

Congressional delegation to also visit Rota

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The congressional delegation that plans to visit the Northern Marianas in two weeks has included Rota on its itinerary during the delegation's scheduled two-day trip next week. This marks the first time that a U.S. congressional delegation will visit Rota.

The group's visit is connected to the proposal to extend the National Park System to the Commonwealth's southernmost island.

Rota is the third largest island in the CNMI and is just over 70 kilometers away from the U.S. territory of Guam, which is also part of the Marianas Islands chain.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) made the trip possible after requesting delegation head Rep. Rob Bishop (R-1st Utah), who is also the U.S. House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee chairman, to visit the CNMI.

Sablan, Bishop, and six other members of the group will be arriving on Saipan on Feb. 22 and would make a stopover on Tinian before heading to Rota the following day.

A Rota National Park Service team would give delegation members an update on the planned park system. They would also hold public meetings as part of their feasibility study of establishing an NPS unit on Rota.

The NPS extension would protect areas that are recognized to be of national importance like the I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, Monchong Latte Village, and the Taga Latte Quarry.

It was Sablan who introduced the bill to create a three-year study for the inclusion of Rota in the National Park System. Sablan included the authorization for the study's funding in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016.

"But the [NPS] idea really began with then-Rota Legislative Delegation leader senator Diego Songao in 2004. [Then]-Rota Rep. Teresita Santos also helped with convincing testimony to Congress in 2010," said Sablan, "as did former Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and Sen. Paul A. Manglona."

"Study recommendations

will go to the Natural Resources Committee, which is responsible for decisions about our national parks," Sablan said.

The congressional delegation's trip is also made possible by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, with the administration saying they

also want the group to see first-hand the CNMI's economic changes and assess its labor and immigration issues.

The administration, Sablan, and the business sector have been pushing for issues and other concerns that were submitted in the 902 report,

especially the expected economic impact of the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Visa program, which expires in 2019.



KIA DRIVES TO SURPRISE



2017 KIA SOUL

Totally transformed

More fun to drive, more advanced technology, more surprises. We've packed almost everything into the 2017 Soul. Discover what's inside for yourself.

starting at

\$18,995 or **\$134**
per paycheck



2017 KIA RIO

FUNctional.™

Performance without compromise. The 2017 Rio is as fun to look at as it is to drive.

starting at

\$16,995 or **\$120**
per paycheck



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON – FRI 8AM-6PM | SAT 8AM-12NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown | Some conditions apply | On approved credit
See dealer for details | While Supplies last. *EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Financing
Available
as low as
5.40%
APR

2017 KIA RIO LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$259.07 or \$119.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$15,544.20.
2017 KIA SOUL LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$289.56 or \$133.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,373.60.



Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: <http://www.marianas.edu>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 16-001

POSITION TITLE: Program Coordinator I (Institutional Marketing)
Department: Office of Institutional Advancement
Pay Level & Step: 20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary: \$24,330.79 – \$25,182.37
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/12/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-010

POSITION TITLE: Instructor (Hospitality/Tourism)
Department: Business
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 - \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus
Opening Date: 1/11/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-031

POSITION TITLE: Clinical Instructor (Nursing)
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 30/01 – 31/02
Annual Salary: \$38,394.81 – \$39,738.63
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 11/09/2016 Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-033

POSITION TITLE: Scientist, Horticulture/Crop
Department: CREES
Pay Level & Step: 35/01 - 35/02
Annual Salary: \$51,330.34 - \$53,126.90
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 2/2/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-034

POSITION TITLE: Program Manager I (UCEDD)
Department: Administration and Resource Development
Pay Level & Step: 28/01 - 28/02
Annual Salary: \$35,674.68 - \$36,923.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/17 Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-039

POSITION TITLE: Accountant I - II (Accounts Payable)
Pay Level & Step: 26/01 – 28/02
Department: Finance
Annual Salary: I: \$32,419.71-\$33,554.40 / II: \$35,674.68-\$36,923.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 2/1/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-041

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Distance Learning Education
Department: Academic Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 - 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 - \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/09/2016 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-042

POSITION TITLE: Department Chair II
Department: Sciences, Math, Health, and Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 34/01 – 34/02
Annual Salary: \$49,356.09 - \$51,083.56
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/9/2016 Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-043

POSITION TITLE: Director, Project PROA
Department: Administration and Resource Development
Pay Level & Step: 33/01 – 35/02
Annual Salary: \$45,314.54 - \$51,609.40 (Depending on Qualifications)
Location: Saipan Campus
Opening Date: 2/6/2017 Closing Date: 2/16/2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-001

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Prior Learning
Department: Academic Programs and Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01- 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 - \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/03/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-002

POSITION TITLE: Instructor (Science)
Department: Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 - \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/3/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-005

POSITION TITLE: Extension Agent
(Agriculture/Community Development)
Department: CREES (Rota Site)
Pay Level & Step: 29/01 – 29/02
Annual Salary: \$40,567.11 - \$41,986.96
Location: Rota, CNMI
Opening Date: 1/19/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-006

POSITION TITLE: Program Lead: Extension and Research
Communications Specialist
Department: CREES
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 35/02
Annual Salary: \$45,632.48 - \$53,126.90 (Depending on Qualifications)
Location: Saipan, CNMI
Opening Date: 1/23/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-007

POSITION TITLE: Marketing Manager
Department: Office of Institutional Advancement
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 - \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/30/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-008

POSITION TITLE: Instructor (Fine Arts Visual)
Department: Social Sciences and Fine Arts
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 - \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 2/3/2017 Closing Date: 2/13/2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-009

POSITION TITLE: Administrative Assistant III
Department: Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics
Minimum Pay Level & Step: 19/01 – 19/02
Minimum Annual Salary: \$23,194.27 - \$24,006.07
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/31/2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Cabinet's performance under review

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The performance of the administration's Cabinet officials are under review following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request for them to submit their courtesy resignations.

Today is the deadline for the submission of courtesy resignations and the administration will have at least two weeks to assess his 10-member Cabinet before making a decision on who is going to be on the

chopping block and who would stay.

James A. Ada (Public Works), Edith Deleon Guerrero (Labor), Robert H. Hunter (Community and Cultural Affairs), Larrisa Larson (Finance), Mark O. Rabauliman (Commerce), Richard B. Seman (Lands and Natural Resources), and Marianne C. Teregeyo (Public Lands) are the seven Cabinet secretaries.

Georgia Cabrera (Corrections), Robert A. Guerrero (Public Safety), and Claudio

K. Norita (Fire and Emergency Medical Services) are the commissioners.

All these Cabinet members are appointees of the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

The looming shake-up in the Cabinet is part of an agreement where all of them would be evaluated two years after the Inos-Torres GOP team won the 2014 general elections.

Inos passed away more than a year after being elected to the highest post in the CNMI. He died in Washington state while

recovering from open-heart surgery in a Seattle hospital.

Torres assumed the governorship following Inos' death, with then-Senate President Victor B. Hocog being elevated as the CNMI's lieutenant governor.

Inos was then-governor Benigno R. Fitial's second-in-command but assumed the CNMI's top post after the latter resigned nine days before the start of his impeachment trial due to allegations of felonies and abuse of power.

ABTC asks retailers to submit alcohol, tobacco report sales

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is requiring all licensed shops and other establishments to submit monthly sales reports of their alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. The new requirement took effect in January this year and the deadline of submission is every 15th day of the next month.

Only Class-2 tobacco merchant retailers, Class-3 On-Sale, Class-4 Off-Sale, and Class-7 Special Liquor Licenses are required to submit their alcohol and tobacco products'

monthly sales reports.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said the monthly report only applies to establishments that fall within the four classes of retailers. The same requirement will only be required of Class-8 (casino license) and Class-9 (e-gaming license) retailers upon full implementation of their respective licenses.

"Requirement for Class-8 and Class-9 will be required upon the completion and promulgation of regulations for the full implementation of license. The monthly sales reports from manufacturing and wholesalers will not be required as they are being re-

corded separately," Rabauliman said.

Collecting general information of the exact number of individual alcoholic beverages and tobacco products was the main purpose of requiring each classified licensed retailers to submit their monthly sales reports.

"This requirement does not intend to collect information with respect to the actual inventory of alcohol and tobacco products nor will it require to collect information with respect to the actual dollar amount of sales generated from the licensed retailers," said Rabauliman.

He added there would not be

any duplication of information since it will also be reported to the CNMI Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation. "What we will be capturing in the report is the actual individual number of alcohol and tobacco products being sold at licensed retail establishments."

ABTC director David R. Maratita said the data collected from the reports hope to address the CNMI Epidemiological Profile's information gap at the Community Guidance Center under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"It will be very interesting to see the next EPI profile report," said Maratita.

CHCC and PSS partner for youth health summit

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. partnered with the CNMI Public School System to conduct the first ever 2017 Youth Health Summit last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Students from all over CNMI came together for the summit, which focused on health and wellness, such as mental, emotional, and physical health. There were also teambuilding exercises.

"Our focus is on providing education, information, and some skill building for our youth," said Heather Pangelinan, Maternal and Child Health Bureau administrator.

According to Pangelinan, information on healthy eating and increasing physical activity was provided so as to prevent the development of health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

Speakers included Aaron Tomokane of Saipan Gold's Gym, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, and Non-Communicable Disease Bureau diabetes program coordinator Amber Mendiola.

Talks on mental health issues were available as well.

Melisha San Nicolas, Personal Responsibility Education Program coordinator for PSS, wishes to see the summit become an annual thing.

"This is the first time we are doing this, in coordination with [Division of] Public Health. We wanted to get their support and services out to the students, so we are starting this off gradually and

hopefully it becomes an annual thing for each school," she said.

Crystal Pangelinan, health coordinator with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, agrees with San Nicolas in setting up an annual youth health summit.

"We have hundreds of other [students who were] not able to attend, so we are just seeing

how the event plays out," she said.

"The partnerships are turning out really well. They are willing to work with us so we can bring this to schools again, possibly next year and see that all the other students can avail of these services because all of these can be very beneficial [to the students]."



WORK STILL TO BE DONE

The Northern Marianas College gymnasium as it looks today. The gym's floor, roof, and equipment are all damaged due to the rain brought by August 2015's Typhoon Soudelor and the typhoons and showers that followed since then. The gym has since been closed to the public due to the facility's instability.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Farmers, grazers are up in arms over fee increase

Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan) has taken up with the Department of Public Lands the more than \$1,000 increase in farming and grazing permit fees.

In a statement Friday, Igitol's office said that the representative had received complaints from several constituents about the increased

fee as provided under newly promulgated Marianas Public Land regulations.

"The complaints allege that prior to November 2015, the

permit fee for grazing and/or farming was \$50 per hectare. The amended regulation increased the grazing and farming permit fee to \$1,250 per hectare," the statement said.

That prompted Igitol to meet with Public Land Secretary Marian Teregeyo last Feb. 8, 2017.

At that meeting, Igitol informed Teregeyo about the complaints she has received from subsistence grazers and farmers about the fee hike.

"According to Secretary Teregeyo, the regulation was amended and signed by the at-

torney general in 2015. [Teregeyo] further explained that in November 2015, the amended regulation was published in the *Commonwealth Register* at the Attorney General's Office. The new regulation was approved in January 2016 and became effective on Feb. 8, 2016," the statement adds.

Teregeyo reportedly told Igitol that she personally disagrees with the regulation as it treats all public lands as for long-term lease for business and temporary for grazing and farming.

In addition, the new regulation also requires all busi-

nesses leasing public land and grazers and farmers with temporary permits to use public land for subsistence living to purchase \$5 million worth of insurance.

Teregeyo reportedly submitted an amendment to the regulation, returning the grazing and farming fee to \$50 per hectare. According to the statement from Igitol's office, the attorney general did not sign the amendment.

Teregeyo has assured Igitol that her office will continue to push amending the regulation for grazing and farming. (PR)

Henkin says 2013 agreement junked transfer of 5,000 Marines to Guam

The 2013 agreement between the United States and Japan got rid of the requirement that the U.S. Marines in Okinawa would be transferred to Guam, according to Earthjustice counsel David L. Henkin.

Yet the U.S. government keeps talking about the 2009 agreement, which has already been superseded, Henkin said, pointing out that the 2013 agreement is already being enforced.

"Japan just said location outside of Japan, get them off of Okinawa. And there are a lot of ways of doing that," said Henkin in an interview after Thursday's hearing on the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by four groups.

Henkin argued for the Tinian Women's Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan-Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity.

They opposed the military's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed the motion under advisement.

The groups are suing the U.S. Department of Navy, U.S. Department of Defense, and their then-officials for alleged violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Act over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan.

Henkin said the 2013 agreement also got rid of any deadline for the relocation to happen.

"So there is plenty of time for the Marines to follow, do what they are supposed to do. Look at the impacts, look at the alternatives, and make a fully informed decision. They

don't need to rush forward," Henkin said.

What the U.S. military wants to do is to rush forward and make it a done deal, he said.

"So even if they violated the law, there is nothing anyone can do about it. The reason why we are in court today is make sure that we get a timely result from the court that can help the people of the Northern Marianas protect their rights," he said.

Henkin asserted that the main issue before the court is whether the people of Tinian and Pagan will have their day in court, whether the court is going to clarify the issue if the Navy has violated the law by failing to

be honest with the people of the Northern Marianas.

"We feel that it is the job of the judiciary to be a watchdog over the executive branch... to make sure that they are very careful to be honest about what the effects of bringing Marines to Guam would be and how it would affect the daily lives of people here," he said.

"That's the proper role of the judiciary and we are hopeful that the judge would see it that way and proceed with the case," Henkin added.

Since Manglona placed the matter under advisement, at this point the best they can do is to wait and see, he said. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Medi-Spa NOW OPEN!



- ✓ Chelation Therapy
- ✓ Hangover Cure
- ✓ Jet Lag Cure
- ✓ Cool Sculpting
- ✓ Botox Treatments

THRIVE, INC.
Saipan's Premier Medi-Spa

LOCATED ABOVE PARADISE DENTAL CENTER • 234-4043



Want a smarter checking account?
You're in business.

☒ **Boost your bottom line**

FREE BUSINESS CHECKING

Get your business off the ground with no monthly service charge. 25 free transactions per month. And a minimum opening balance of just \$100. Let's check off all your business milestones, together.¹
It all starts with Yes.

Open a new Free Business Checking account by 2/28/17 and also receive:

- Free custom padfolio¹
- Free FHB Business Online for 6 months²
- Free FHB Business Online Bill Payment for 6 months²



Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC



This Valentine's
say *I love you*
with flowers and gifts from

**NEW
PARADISE FLOWER SHOP**

Buy 3, 6 or 12 pieces of roses arranged in a vase and get a **FREE** small Teddy Bear.

*Limited Stock only

We also have: * Tulips * Orchids * Lucky Bamboo * Fruit & Wine Basket * Gift Basket
* Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) * Chocolates * Stuffed Toys * HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)

To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.

You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.

New Paradise Florist

OLIVE STYLE MMC X CELL CORREA

MIDDLE ROAD

SHELL FHB PIZZA HUT

1. The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain a padfolio is \$100. No minimum balance required to avoid a monthly service charge. Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the custom padfolio when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch and open a new (not converted) Free Business Checking account. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one padfolio per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offers expire 2/28/17 or when supplies are exhausted. Miscellaneous fees and service charges do apply. Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of \$0.50 per item over 25.
2. Offer applies to new FHB Business Online customers who enroll by 2/28/17. Offer does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. After six (6) months, standard FHB Business Online fees apply. You must have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. For branch use only: Write "Special Promotion" on application.

Public warned of high surf until Friday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, light and variable winds will continue to increase over the next couple of days with fresh to strong winds expected today, Monday. Combined seas will build to between 10 and 12 feet Tuesday as a shear line approaches the Marianas.

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6pm Friday.

Ritidian and buoy has shown an increase in swell to 6 feet with a period of 12

seconds. This should produce surf of 9 feet. A shear line approaching the local area is associated with higher winds and swell and as such expects swell and surf to increase.

Surf will be hazardous along north and west facing reefs and will slowly increase the next day or two and possibly remain hazardous through the coming week.

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6pm Friday.

Latest buoy shows combined seas have raised to 8 to 10 feet. This will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft. Conditions will not im-

prove through the week with winds also increasing to above small craft criteria later this week. Expect winds and/or seas to be hazardous for small craft

through at least Friday.

The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these condi-

tions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially those facing north and west as rip currents will be life-threatening. **(EOC)**



PALAU VISITORS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/MELIDAB

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, his wife, and Rep. Alice S. Igitol take a moment to grab a group photo with the CNMI grassroots team at the Belau National Museum. The CNMI officials were in Palau for the installation of Tommy Remengesau Jr. as President of the Republic of Palau.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes – January 30, 2017

II. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Junket Program – Proposed Revenue Sharing Option & Rebate Agreement

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval** of Regular Casino Key Employee ("CKE") Licenses:
 - Butcher, Kelly: Vice President of Legal
 - Chu, Wai Seng ("Donald"): Senior Manager Systems-Information Technology Infrastructure
 - Ho, Ka U ("Ray"): Data Management Information Technology
 - Kwan, Kwok Hong ("Dominic"): Vice President of Information Technology
 - Morrow, Laurence Scott: Director of Table Games
 - Xu, Bo Chuan ("Walter"): Senior Vice President of Electronic Gaming
- Notification** of Casino Provisional Vendor Licenses (Non-Gaming) Issued by CCC on 02/10/17:
 - Guangdong Development Co., Ltd- dba: Guangdong Hardware
 - Advance Carrier, Inc. dba: Advance Carrier
 - Pacific Trading Company, Ltd
- CCC Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request
- Proposed Changes to the Casino Regulations and Others:
 - § 175-10.1-1130 Consent to Examination of Accounts and Records: (c) The Casino Gaming Licensee must maintain an account in a bank in the CNMI or any US Bank into which are deposited its revenues from all gaming activities.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Updates from IPI:
 - Construction Progress – Grand Mariana/Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel
 - Updated IPI Management – CEO, COO, Other CKE
 - Status and updates on Bond Issuance
 - Updated Listing of all Employees and Key Employees
 - Personnel Training and Recruitment Efforts
 - Responsible Gaming Program
 - Status of CCC Orders (2016-001 & 2 and 2017-001)
 - Status of DPAC

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Report by the Legal Counsel
- Personnel Matters – Legal Counsel Employment Contract
- IPI Financial Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Gold Mantis Construction Decoration(CNMI), LLC

PMB 599 BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Looking for U.S. Workers, please email your resume to:
goldmantiscnmi@gmail.com or call 670-322-0028

- **JOB TITLE: Electric Welder**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 100**
- **SALARY RANGE: \$6.55 to \$10 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:**

Ensure that the welding spot be plump to be with the shape of a fish scale, periodically inspect welder equipment to guarantee stable and reliable performance, inspect drying condition of welding materials and guarantee the condition meeting requirement, for first-level welding seams and those with special design drawing requirements, intermediate testing inspection shall be done to complete the operation After welding, clear slag crusts to make surface quality meet standards. Ensure the seam welding perpendicularity of angle welding in accordance with regulations of design, record the data of thermal treatment after welding and ensure hardness of welding seam is up to standard, stamp the steel seal of the welder's code at the welding seam, offer check and acceptance materials according to rules, strictly perform according to safety technique operation specification for electric welders, achieve safe and civilized construction.

- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Must be a certified Electric Welder (need to show proof of certification). Able to skillfully use special tools, have a good command of welding tools, meters, equipment, metal and materials, and kinds of welding methods.

- **JOB TITLE: Administrative Officer**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 1**
- **SALARY RANGE: \$10 to \$12 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:**

- Manages and executes administrative, project, and executive support activities associated with the office of a core division or equivalent component of the company. Reporting directly to the principal executive officer of the entity, serves as principle point of administrative contact and liaison with internal and external constituencies.
- Provides and/or oversees the provision of direct staff support to the office manager. Provides specialist administrative services as appropriate in such areas as public/community relations, faculty, staff, general business administration; and/or development and relations, depending upon the functional area supported.
- Oversees and administers the day-to-day activities of the office; develops policies, procedures, and systems which ensure productive and efficient office operation.
- Provides assistance and support in problem solving, project planning and management, and development and execution of stated goals and objectives.
- Provides and/or oversees provision of staff support to the office, to include handling walk-up and phone interactions, maintaining calendars and travel arrangements, screening, analyzing, and responding to incoming correspondence, handling day-to-day problems and situations, and provision of secretarial support.
- Provides assistance in the understanding and interpretation of company policies and procedures, as appropriate, and ensures that office operations are in compliance with policy provisions and standards.
- Assists in the coordination, supervision, and completion of special projects, as appropriate.

■ QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed degree(s) from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis
- Bachelor's degree; 2 years of directly related experience managing at least one of the following functional areas: fiscal services, administration and/or human resources.
- Must be able to speak, read, and write in Mandarin.

■ EXPERIENCE

- Five years of additional work experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.

Prosthetist on island for consultations

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in collaboration with Eucon Medical Services, has invited a certified prosthetist, Marc Kaufman, to Saipan from Feb. 20 to 23, 2017. Kaufman will be on island to help people who had amputations as well as provide education for the prevention of amputations.

A certified prosthetist helps individuals who have had amputations and are in need of an artificial arm or leg or diabetic shoes. Diabetic shoes are specially designed shoes, or shoe inserts, intended to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in diabetics with pre-existing foot disease.

We would like to extend an invitation to those in the community who;

- 1) need an artificial arm or leg after amputation
- 2) has diabetes and have callouses or are unable to feel parts of their feet
- 3) has an artificial leg or arm that they are unable to wear due to cracks in the artificial leg or arm or because of poor fitting.

This invitation is also open to all members of the community interested in amputation prevention education.

To make an appointment or if you have questions, contact local physical therapist Pam Carhill or Lei Hicaro at Eucon Medical Health Services by Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017. They will be able to provide information regarding what you need from your medical provider (doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner) and about insurance coverage.

People may schedule appointments to see Kaufman for amputation care by calling between 8:30am and 6:30pm, Monday-Friday at (670) 233-3647 or email Carhill at swim-saipan@yahoo.com. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy first birthday to our baby angel, Sofia Aranda Pineda. May the good Lord continue to guide you and bless you! May your special day and the coming days bring you as much happiness you are bringing to mommy and daddy. We love you so much, anak!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations GCA January MathCourt winners



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Kinder- 3rd Grade MathCourt January winners have their picture taken at the school's Rev. Raymond s. Kinsella Library.

Grace Christian Academy's Kindergarten 5 to 8th grade mathletes won several awards from the first monthly qualifying MathCourt competition held last Jan. 28, 2017, at Kolberville Elementary School.

For the 6th to 8th grade team awards, the Jr. Eagles 1 team of GCA 8th grader Julie Quan won the bronze award. She was the only winner in her team.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy are very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the CNMI-wide MathCourt competitions.

KINDER 5 - 3RD GRADE

Kindergarten

Hans Ordas, 1st place

1st Grade

Sheewoo Kim, 2nd place

Llyanna Jairah Manalang, 2nd place

2nd Grade

Justin Ma, 1st place

3rd Grade

Jung Woo Kim, 1st place

Rafael Busby, 4th place

4TH -6TH GRADE QUALIFIERS

4th Grade

Tae Young Lee

Jessica Ma

Koey Pan

5th Grade

Andrew Nunez

6th Grade

Ryan Daproza

Matthew Ernest

8th Grade

Julie Quan, Bronze Team

GCA proctors: Susan Pajarillaga, Marilyn Aldan, Jae Kwang Oh

GCA MathCourt coordinator: Susan Pajarillaga

Grace Christian Academy 8th grader Julie Quan won the bronze award as a member of the Jr. Eagles 1 team of GCA, CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's 4th-6th Grade January qualifiers have their picture taken at the school's Rev. Raymond s. Kinsella Library.



Sunset Health Walk & Run on March 4

Special Assistant for Women's Affairs Dolores R. Drew, together with the 14th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, invite everyone (woman, man and children) to the 2017 Sunset Health Walk & Run! This event is one of the many events being held in the month of March as a part of CNMI Women's Month.

The physical activity event is a way for all members of the community to promote physical activity, along with celebrating the importance of having a community of healthy women in the CNMI. The course runs from the Trongkon Da'ok Pavilion up north to the tank at the Quartermaster Road and back.

The activities start at 2:30pm at the Trongkon Da'ok Pavilion at Kili Beach across the Marianas High School. Registration is free. It is possible to register at the site on the day of the event.

Registration starts at 2:30pm with the run beginning at 3pm. Free gifts are available for the first 200 people that sign up, with refreshments after the activity. Also, the NCD bureau will be on hand to conduct health outreach as well as free blood glucose and blood pressure screening.

For more information, contact Women's Affairs outreach coordinator Geraldine Sebaklim at 664-2659/989-4651 or at geraldine.sebaklim@gov.mp.

You can also log on to Facebook for more information regarding the activity at <https://www.facebook.com/events/154993475007234/>. (PR)



KNIGHT MATHLETES

Led by MathCourt adviser and coach HeJin Lee, Knight mathletes did well in the Jan. 28 MathCourt competition, garnering the following places: First Grade: second place Layla Palacios in room E25, second place Kevin Doronilla in room E26, Julius Sheu in room E26. Second Grade: Leah Lansangan in room C13. Third Grade: second place Oscar Buenaflor in E26. Fourth Grade: first place Nathaniel Clark. Fifth Grade: third place Eunkyu Hong. Nathaniel Clark, Tricia Palacios, Eunkyu Hong, and Eric Oh qualified for the CNMI-wide regionals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adail Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 30

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Campus free speech under attack

The violence that erupted at UC Berkeley last week during the protest of a planned speech by Breitbart News senior editor Milo Yiannopoulos, known for his conservative and decidedly politically incorrect views, was a sorry display and a blow to free speech.

It is ironic that such a demonstration took place at the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement during the 1960s. The demonstration began peacefully, with up to 1,500 protesters expressing their opposition to the conservative journalist and speaker. But then about 150 black-clad and masked agitators infiltrated the event, shooting fireworks at police, setting fires and smashing windows on campus and in the surrounding downtown area. Several apparent supporters of the event were beaten or pepper sprayed.

The provocateurs are reportedly from a group called Antifa, which claims to be an anti-fascist organization, yet remains oblivious to the fact that it adopts fascist tactics to violently suppress opposing views.

"We regret that the threats and unlawful actions of a few have interfered with the exercise of First Amendment rights on a campus that is proud of its history and legacy as home of the Free Speech Movement," the university said in a statement. "(W)hile Mr. Yiannopoulos' views, tactics and rhetoric are profoundly contrary to our own, we are bound by the Constitution, the law, our values and the campus' Principles of Community to enable free expression across the full spectrum of opinion and perspective."

If only others, particularly on left-leaning college campuses, felt the same way. Even before the violent agitators arrived on campus, for example, the peaceful protesters voiced their opposition to free speech, shouting "Shut it down" outside the building where Yiannopoulos was to speak and cheering when it was announced that the talk had been canceled.

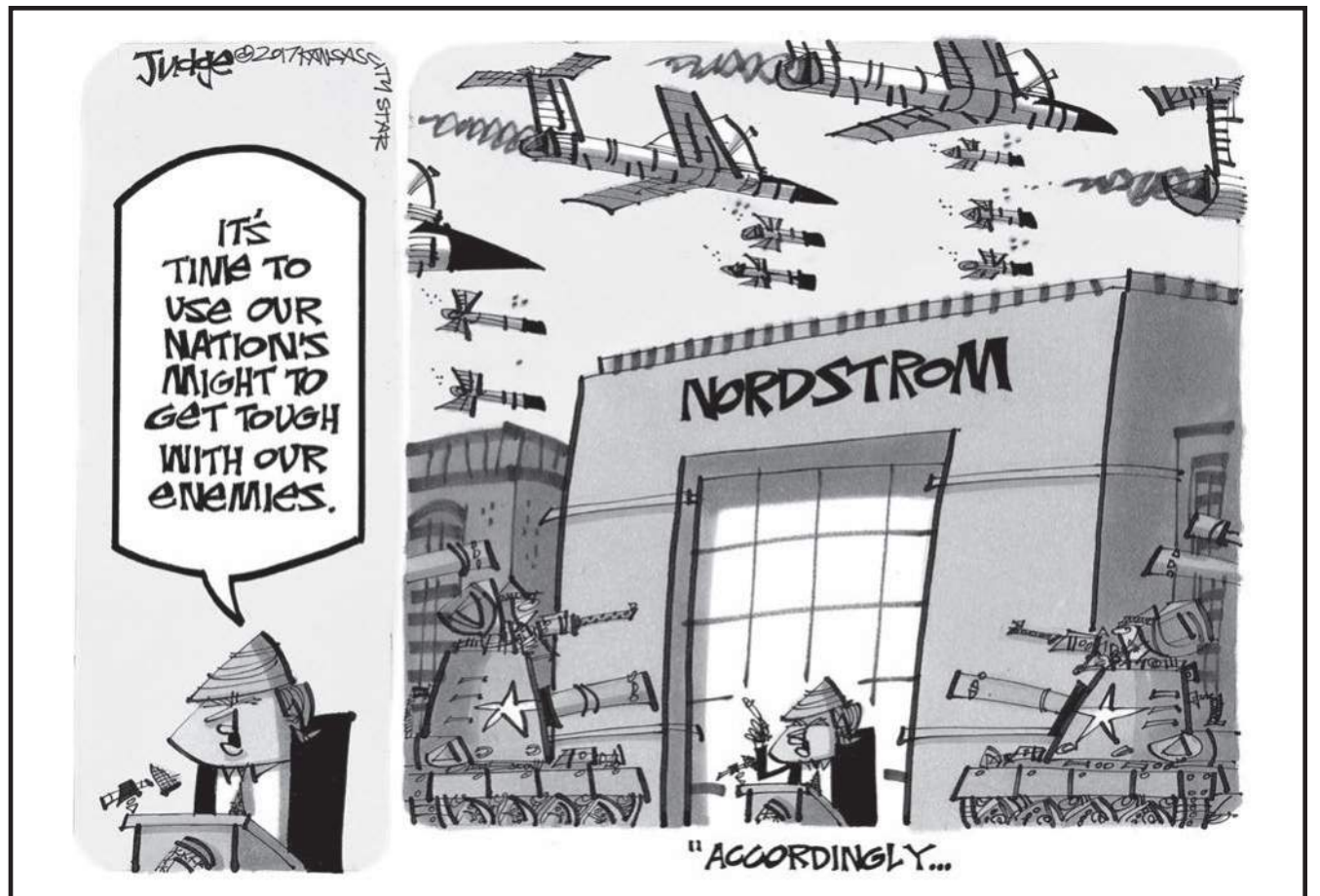
Yiannopoulos remained defiant afterwards. "One thing we do know for sure: the left is absolutely terrified of free speech and will do literally anything to shut it down," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Such actions by progressive students to stifle nonliberal campus speakers have become a disturbing trend, however, and have only intensified since the election of President Donald Trump.

There seems to be a cognitive dissonance among them of equating speech that they deem intolerant with violence, and then using actual physical threats and violence to prevent that speech.

It is a sad commentary on our supposed institutions of higher learning when diversity is idolized in every respect but the most important one—the diversity of thought; when tolerance is a virtue except when it comes to the tolerance of contrary viewpoints. The culture of too many college campuses has shifted from one of a search for knowledge and truth to indoctrination camps for immature, malleable minds and training grounds for social activism.

See CAMPUS on Next Page



Iraqis who helped US now wait under immigration ban

As the courts ponder President Trump's ill-advised immigration ban, nothing better illustrates its cruelty and carelessness than its impact on Iraqis who risked their lives to help Americans.

By now you probably know that Trump's claim that a mere 109 visa holders were affected was nonsense. At least 60,000 U.S. visas were canceled, causing chaos for foreign students, academics, high-tech workers, doctors who serve rural America, family members of U.S. citizens and tourists. That's in addition to green-card holders—permanent U.S. residents—who were originally included in the ban (most were eventually permitted to enter).

What you may not know is that the ban included Iraqis who held Special Immigrant Visas issued to interpreters who helped the U.S. military. Thank heavens the Trump administration was shamed (and pressed by the Pentagon) into revising that decision. However, that affected relatively few Iraqis, because the SIV program ended in 2014; only 19 such visas were issued during the last three years, according to the State Department (about 500 cases are being processed).

And what you probably don't know is that many other Iraqis who risked their lives helping Americans are still excluded by the ban.

These are Iraqis who applied under another process—the so-called Direct Access Program—for those whose lives are endangered because they worked for U.S. military or civilian officials, aid agencies, contractors or journalists. Now Trump's ban has left them dangerously in the lurch.

The program was already in trouble before the White House undermined it further. There are about 50,000 Iraqis in the queue, including family members, and the process can drag on for as much as five years, say staffers at the International Refugee Assistance Project.

The delay is partly due to the acute shortage of U.S. personnel to interview the applicants at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. It can take two years or more just to get the first of two required interviews. Then the "extreme" security vetting of each candidate, done by multiple agencies in the United States, can take at least two and sometimes many more years—President Trump, please take note.

The presidential order will increase the backlog, because all interviews are now suspended, and visas have been canceled—some just before the recipients were about to fly to America. Even if the ban is rescinded in 90 days, the disruption will set back the program for much longer. And, because the order cuts the annual number of refugee admissions by more than half, it further dims the hopes of these Iraqis.

Talking by phone to Baghdad, I heard frustration and anguish. "We are fighting ISIS and we are not allowed (to get visas)," Ahmed F. told me, after his sister-in-law's second interview was

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



just canceled. "What about Saudi Arabia (most of the 9/11 hijackers were Saudis)? The White House destroyed us and I don't know why."

Why, indeed. This is a question I also hear from Ali H., who has been living under death threat for 18 months in Baghdad while waiting for his first interview in the DAP process. Now no one can say if that interview will happen.

I have a personal interest in Ali's case; his brother Salam was my translator in Baghdad and helped U.S. soldiers arrest Shiite militia goons who were murdering his Sunni neighbors. When the U.S. military withdrew, those militiamen came after Salam and his family, murdering one brother and a cousin.

Salam escaped to Cyprus with his family, but Ali remains trapped under death threat, living in hiding. He has had to send his family to live in southern Iraq with relatives, lest the militiamen kill one of his children. Ali is entitled—as the brother of someone who worked for U.S. journalists—to an American visa once he completes the process. But he has been waiting in vain.

The last time I reached Ali by phone he told me, "I can't go out on the street in daylight because someone from the militia might be waiting to kill me." With the whole DAP refugee process on hold, Ali may be waiting for many more years.

Ali's tragic case points to the absurdity of the president's executive order. No Iraqi refugee has ever committed a terrorist act on American soil. (Two Iraqi refugees, out of about 110,000 Iraqi refugees and SIV visa holders who have entered the country, were accused of terrorist acts in their homeland.)

If the president really wanted to make America safer he would cement ties with Iraqis who are our allies. Instead, he is sending a message that Iraqis who help Americans will be disdained and betrayed. That applies whether they are Iraqi soldiers fighting alongside Americans in the battle for Mosul—or are interpreters.

This message plays right into the narrative of pro-Iranian Shiite militias and Sunni jihadis, that evil America can never be trusted. Perhaps Trump's more sober generals—James Mattis at Defense and John Kelly at Homeland Security—will convey this message to the White House.

In the meantime, those Iraqis who believed in America are paying a high and often fatal price.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LITERARY NOOK**A Valentine Quintet**

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

“Quantum Love Quantified” is a new sonnet written on Feb. 10, 2017. The other four appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* a few years ago. These sonnets are about how love in its myriad forms can leave us in a quandary or bogged down in a quagmire about its quality. Three of the sonnets are humorous in nature so that we might “live, love, laugh, and be happy.” Enjoy them all.

A brief definition for the Latin terms used in them follows: A “quid nunc” is a person who seeks to know all the latest news or gossip, a busybody; “quiescent” means tranquilly at rest; “quid pro quo” is something given or received by someone else. One meaning for “quietus” is removal from activity or death. Happy Valentine’s Day.

Quantum Love Quantified

how much love is enough can we ever get enough
measuring the amount of love is difficult to do
lifelong need mixed with other emotional stuff
disappointment depression and just feeling blue
love parceled out to and from giver and receiver
is like making limitations to friendship and kindness
it prevents those involved from being a true believer
when love is often simply blessed with blindness
more and more or sometimes less love is more
love finds its way around and through us all
life changes to family and friends love explores
sensible and nonsensical love will rise up and fall
it won’t fall out of fashion or any part of our lives
love from our innermost being grows and thrives

Quid Nunc Love?

what now love? the busybody asks
all he had to say was a bunch of bunk
telling tales about each and every drunk
meanwhile he came out smelling like a skunk
a three whole point sinker stinker slam dunk

CAMPUS

From Page 10

“Goebbels was in favor of freedom of speech for views he liked. So was Stalin. If you’re really in favor of freedom of speech, that means you’re in favor of freedom of speech precisely for views you despise,” political philosopher and author Noam Chomsky asserted. If our universities are to regain their reputations as places of serious scholarship and intellectual growth for our young adults, then liberal students, faculty and administrators must rededicate themselves to creating an atmosphere that embraces and respects the competition of differing ideals.

(c)2017 The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, Calif.)



AP

Protesters hold signs while talking to students and others on the University of California, Berkeley, campus in Berkeley, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chaos that erupted at the University of California, Berkeley, to oppose right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos was shocking not just for the images of protesters setting fires, smashing windows and hurling explosives at police, but because of where it took place.

he always seemed to exist in a funk
like an elephant with snot in his trunk
that couldn’t blow out a big chunk
but when it finally did it sure stunk
his recent gossip was of a teenage punk
stealing and driving an old hunk of junk
out on a frozen lake where it soon sunk
hitting the bottom with a cold clank and klunk
now a marijuana smoking monk is
the latest from busybody Quid Nunc

Love Quiescent

we lie in sweet silence musing in repose
the window half shut a soft breeze blows through
the last few rays of sunlight color your hair
as this weekend comes to a too short close
tomorrow back to work we’ll both be driving off
the taste of love in our mind and mouth
a kitty sleeps in an old rocking chair
both of us hitting dirt roads towards the South
a soft woolen blanket wards off the chill
out the window we see the car wheel ruts
on the dresser a dead wasp near a pear
we loll around the cabin or lie still
hardly any breeze now only the rustling sound
of chipmunks storing nuts underground

Love Quid Pro Quo – Shrimp for Giant Prawn

the shrimps donation got appreciation

frustration was found in its equation
liquid litigation for a saline situation
brought considerable complication
annunciation from the pink crustacean
whose aspiration was magnification
but lacked justification and qualification
thus some nullification of the operation
still temptation for prawn fornication
genus exploration and gender glorification
provided plenty of patient process purification
followed by acrobatic aqueous pacification
thus starting with sublimation on its vacation
the cool crustacean began real relaxation

Love’s Quietus

there’s a time when love goes on quietus
we think we won’t let love operate us
a Besame Mucho Café will blue plate us
with leftovers and infidelity flatus
there’s no need to tempt or salivate us
or in any way try to recreate us
though perhaps it is time to restate us
as transparency begins to liberate us
matchmakers try their best to mate us
so we can ultimately duplicate us
try as they might love will exonerate us
as such amorous attempts begin to grate us
As the World Turns soaps, suds, gyrates us
love’s quietus will eliminate us

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Cockfighting and legalization**

I’m sure some readers may be wondering what cockfighting and legalization have in common; the answer is they “both” need to be controlled by the government and not the private sector. Both of these phenomena are capable of being reproduced by almost any resident and by almost anyone over the age of 10. Both of these phenomena are capable of entertaining extremely large amounts of money which creates the potential for criminal behavior and it is also money that should be taxed and the only credible means for safety and accountability is for the government to be on site for the safety participants and spectators and to collect taxes while ensuring there is no cheating. Finally, both of these phenomena need to be conducted under “fair conditions.” So as one can see there is a very good argument for legalization to be controlled by the government as top marijuana policy experts at major universities are now promoting after witnessing the Colorado, Washington and Oregon experiments in legalization. Cockfighting, the airline industry and legalization need controls!

There are only two means for legalization to be implemented: government or private sector. The “controls” over a private system that prevail over the growth, processing, sales and payment of taxes makes all of these dynamics of the industry left up to private individuals and businesses. Needless to say, there is very little accountability and there is even a dependency that these individuals and businesses will follow all the laws and not cheat on reporting their taxable income. Much of a private sector system will go virtually unchecked because the government will only collect fees and taxes for regulating and monitoring and testing. The government will exercise virtually no real controls to guarantee the authentication of all commercial growth, safe and reliable commercial processing, and the actual sales amounts for tax purposes. States are implementing the “traditional private sector legalization system” because they don’t have any other option due to their geographical size, with populations in the millions who will need or want access to the products of the marijuana industry. States don’t want to sacrifice the “millions in investment” needed to create a government controlled system because of the size the agency would need to be for a state with millions of square

miles of land and millions of people, especially when marijuana is still has an uncertain future with the feds.

However, unlike states in the mainland, the CNMI is far smaller and far less populated in addition to being “segregated” from the rest of the world by an ocean. The CNMI may be the perfect test tube for implementing a government-controlled legalization system. Unlike the government operated liquor business of Utah where you can only buy liquor at a state (government) liquor store, a government controlled legalization system is much different so don’t get a government operated industry confused with a government controlled industry like we see locally with cockfighting and nationally with the airlines industry (fed air traffic controllers, fed immigration controls and FAA controls). Certain industries must be controlled by the government and I submit that the commercial marijuana industry will best serve its purpose as a government-controlled industry, like cockfighting and the airline industry.






The main argument against a government-controlled system is “we can’t trust the government.” Well, if you are going to trust the government to regulate the industry, why not trust it to “control and regulate” the industry? The idea that you can trust the government to be responsible enough to regulate but not to control is really a conflicting dichotomy! If the government can regulate, then it can surely control the factors it is being tasked with regulating like we see with cockfighting and the airlines. In fact, experts have deduced that arguments against the government having “direct control” are just more fear-mongering arguments that are unfounded just like many of the false claims that were once raised against legalization, which have now been debunked.

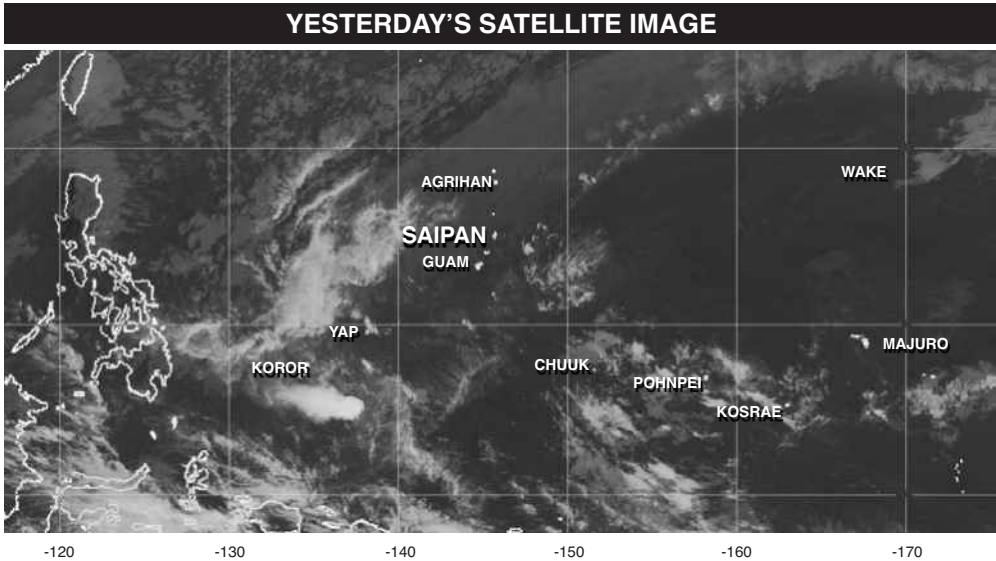
The CNMI has the opportunity to have the best marijuana law in the nation while being the first state level government to implement legalization under a fully government controlled system and we must be the first in our region. The only question is, will our leaders *carpe diem* or will they sit around playing politics while the people watch Guam and Hawaii leave us in their wake again! I’ve been warning our leaders for two years that we are in a competition and now Guam’s governor is aware of the competition for our region and he is not playing-around with legalization Please, don’t let this be another “I told you so” because I’ve been trying to keep us in the race and competitive enough to beat Guam to the finish line and hopefully they will move now that Guam’s governor is competing for the cannabis tourism market.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°



PICTURE TIME: 11:15 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

A weakening cold front that is undergoing transition to a shear line is seen to the north of Saipan this morning. Strong high pressure to the northwest, over eastern China, will gradually move eastward to the north of the CNMI later this week. As this high pressure system continues to strengthen as it moves eastward over the next week, it will push the front/shear line a little farther south over the Marianas. This will result in increasing cloud cover, showers and winds through most of the coming week. For today, winds will remain fairly light over the area through the afternoon. Cloud cover is expected to remain partly cloudy allowing fair surface heating during the day. As a result, there will be a slight chance of thunderstorms over the islands. As the shear line pushes south, cloud cover is expected to increase through the evening. As the pressure gradient increases with the approach of the shear line, winds will increase to moderate late tonight then become fresh to strong Monday night into Tuesday. Increasing convergence with the strengthening winds will result in scattered showers over the islands by Tuesday. Latest model guidance indicates that the shear line will remain over the Marianas through the week, keeping an unsettled pattern over the area through Thursday with breezy conditions likely through the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Showers	72° / 64°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 71°
London	Sunny	46° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	74° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 66°
New York	Windy	39° / 27°
Osaka	Showers	45° / 34°
Paris	Sunny	50° / 28°
Pusan	Sunny	43° / 27°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 43°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 37°
San Francisco	Flurries	41° / 22°
Seoul	Sunny	39° / 21°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 34°
Washington, DC	Windy	46° / 30°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Monday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:18 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
9:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
3:50 PM	LOW TIDE	0.74
9:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	-	8:08 AM	8:21 PM
Tuesday	-	8:50 AM	9:12 PM
Wednesday	-	9:30 AM	10:01 PM
Thursday	-	10:10 AM	10:49 PM
Friday	-	10:50 AM	11:37 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:20am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily

6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
--------	--------	-------

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

Imperial Pacific spearheads Marpi cleanup

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team conducted a massive cleanup last week covering the whole Marpi stretch that included the Korean Memorial, Okinawa Peace Memorial, and the Last Japanese Command Post.

"We are already experiencing an influx of tourists visiting the islands and this is one reason why we are assisting in maintaining through cleanup of our historical sites," said Geri Dela Cruz, executive director of Imperial Pacific's CSR department.

The onset of rain recently exposed these historical sites to slip hazards, Dela Cruz said. Imperial Pacific's CSR group cleaned up and removed potential slip hazards. "We also wanted to assist in eliminating slip hazards at these sites frequented by tourists."

Imperial Pacific's CSR team pressure washed all memorials and sidewalks within the memorials. They also painted curbs and tire stops in parking lots of the whole walkabout stretch from the Korean Memorial, past the Last Command Post.

IPI-CSR also replaced all flags donated by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Last month, Imperial Pacific responded to the call of MVA in encouraging businesses, government agencies and volunteer groups to take part in the upkeep and maintenance of Paseo de Marianas, considered the heart of Garapan, which is the business hub of the Northern Marianas.

The cleanup is part of MVA's beautification project, an undertaking that involves private businesses and government agencies as partners. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pressure washing one of the historical sites in Marpi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team cleans up the whole Marpi stretch that includes the Korean Memorial, Okinawa Peace Memorial, and the Last Japanese Command Post.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility's Martin Pangelinan, Chris Meyers, and Greg Sablan begin work on slip hazards.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific's CSR team painted curbs and tire stops in parking lots of the whole walkabout stretch from the Korean Memorial, past the Last Command Post.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kent Kalen, an Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility representative, applies pressurized water work on a Marpi sidewalk.

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 13, from 9am to 12:30pm

■ Feb. 14, from 10:30am to 10pm

■ Feb. 15 and 16, from noon to 11pm

The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 13, from 8am to 2pm

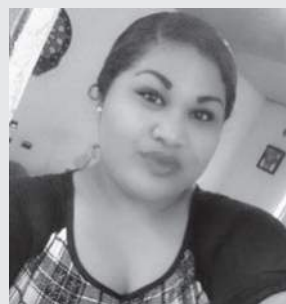
■ Feb. 14, from 8am to 8pm

■ Feb. 17, from 10am to 3:45pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 25th birthday, baby. May you have a great day and may the good Lord continue to bless you abundantly. Thank you for everything. I love you and I hope you enjoy your day. With love, Brandon, Yas&Don, family & friends.



HAPPY CHRISTENING!

Happy Christening to Sofia Madeleine A. Apostol! She is more precious than jewel, may this precious child be blessed as we watch her grow...God's blessings will unfold. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Contest winners capture Pacific's fight against NCD

SUVA, Fiji—"Having local fresh produce available for purchase makes it much easier to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Take your kids and grandkids to the store and have them help with the shopping so they learn about good choices," recommends Annabel Lyman from Palau.

"I entered the contest because I am and have always been rather passionate about making healthy choices for my family," she says.

Lyman is one of four winners announced in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's "Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases in the Pacific" photography competition. Her entry creatively demonstrated the link between the environment and NCDs with a photo of her 5 year-old grandson making healthy choices at the grocery store.

NCDs are the leading cause of death in the region, with Pacific Islanders dying prematurely from heart diseases, cancers, chronic lung diseases, and diabetes. The Pacific Islands region is also the epicenter of obesity, with five Pacific nations ranking among the top 10 globally.

The regional competition, launched during World Diabetes Day (Nov. 14) last year, aimed to bring into focus the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Annabel Lyman from Palau is one of four winners in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's "Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases in the Pacific" photography competition. Her entry shows her 5 year-old grandson making healthy choices at the grocery store.

immense impact that NCDs have on Pacific Islands economies and homes as well as how they can be prevented and managed.

The competition received widespread interest, with more than 40 entries across four main categories: NCD Prevention; Social Impacts of NCDs; Links Between our Environment and NCDs; and Culture and NCD Prevention.

Christopher Surla from Guam won the NCD prevention category with a photo

highlighting the importance of physical activity in NCD prevention.

"This photo was taken during the World Health Day Diabetes Alert Day. The picture shows mostly government of Guam employees enjoying group fitness through the Worksite Wellness Program. I entered this competition to highlight some of the great work that the Guam Non-Communicable Disease Consortium is doing," Surla said.

Caroline Apaisam's win-

ning photo from the Federated States of Micronesia demonstrated the social impact of NCDs.

"Where I live, smoking is one of the leading cause of NCD and not much is done to eliminate it," she said.

The Culture and NCD Prevention category was won by 14 year-old Raine Kalotiti from Vanuatu with an image of youth learning to surf.

"This is the first time that SPC's Public Health Division has organized a photo contest on NCDs and we are really pleased with the enthusiastic response received. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words and we will use these images in our campaigns to raise more awareness of these diseases that are currently responsible for more deaths in the region than any other cause or ailment," SPC's Non-Communicable Diseases Officer Solene Bertrand-Protat said.

Keeping in theme with the focus of the competition, each winner receives a connected wristband to track their physical activity. In addition, all participants will walk away with the "Pasifika Plates" recipe book produced by SPC. (SPC)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Raine Kalotiti's photo entry shows an image of boy learning to surf.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christopher Surla's photo was taken during the World Health Day Diabetes Alert Day. The picture shows government of Guam employees enjoying group fitness through the Worksite Wellness Program.



Caroline Apaisam's winning photo from the Federated States of Micronesia demonstrated the social impact of non-communicable diseases. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MVA woos travelers with digital influencers

The Marianas Visitors Authority held the 2017 Marianas Supporters Opening Ceremony in Seoul on Jan. 25, 2017, recruiting 30 powerful digital influencers to create and release high quality digital content on various online channels to raise awareness of the Marianas as the ideal destination for free independent travelers.

The Marianas Supporters program consists of digital content experts in various categories including travel, outdoor recreation, beauty, art and even fashion. In the year ahead, the participants will visit Rota, Tinian, and Saipan posting the latest Marianas travel information and tips on their social media channels, such as Facebook, Instagram, and blogs.

The Jan. 26 ceremony started with an introduction of the MVA's "Paradise For Everyone" campaign in Korea, presented by Justin Jung, the director of Marketing and PR of MVA's Korea office.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority held the 2017 Marianas Supporters Opening Ceremony in Seoul on Jan. 25, 2017, recruiting 30 powerful digital influencers to create and release high quality digital content on various online channels to raise awareness of the Marianas as the ideal destination for FIT travelers.

Jung highlighted "Paradise For Everyone" as the main theme for digital content and provided travel guidelines for the public.

According to Jung, the participating digital influencers gave good feedback on the

Marianas Supporter program and "Paradise For Everyone," saying they were impressed that the Marianas was a charming destination full of fascinating leisure activities and attractions.

"South Korea has one of

the highest percentages of internet users in the world, so it makes sense to help FITs make the decision to visit the Marianas by reaching them online with up-to-the-minute content," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "And for our

local and English-speaking community, we invite you to join the effort and begin using the hashtag #MyMarianas, so we can reach more FITs around the world!"

The Marianas Supporters program was implemented by

the MVA to make the most of recent Korean travel market conditions, which show large increases in FIT demand and trendy travel information. The program is supported by MVA airline and hotel partners. (MVA)

Nation

Trump, Abe express close bonds after NKorea's missile launch

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—For most of the day President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe used golf under the Florida sun to show the world the U.S.-Japan alliance remained strong. Then events half-a-world away provided a more significant example of cooperation.

After North Korea reportedly launched a ballistic missile, the two leaders appeared for hastily prepared statements in a ballroom of Trump's south Florida estate. Abe spoke first and longest, though his statement was terse.

"North Korea's most recent missile launch is absolutely intolerable," Abe said through a translator. He added that the North must comply fully with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, but also noted that Trump had assured him that the U.S. supported Japan.

"President Trump and I myself completely share the view that we are going to promote further cooperation between the two nations. And also we



AP
President Donald Trump speaks as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe listens as they both made statements about North Korea at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017.

tweeted, "Having a great time hosting Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the United States!" Pro golfer Ernie Els joined them on the greens.

In a sign of unity, neither Japanese nor White House officials volunteered the pair's final score. Instead, the White House issued a statement saying the day was "both relaxing and productive" and that Trump and Abe had "had great conversations on a wide range of subjects."

As their husbands golfed, Mrs. Trump and Akie Abe toured the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in nearby Delray Beach. It was Mrs. Trump's first solo event as first lady. The women had lunch together at Mar-a-Lago.

The two couples touched down in Florida on Friday afternoon and headed straight to Mar-a-Lago, where they enjoyed a late dinner at its crowded patio restaurant. They were joined by Robert Kraft, the owner of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, and several interpreters. Paying members and club guests took in the scene and mingled with Trump and Abe into the night.

Trump also was scheduled to tend to other business in Florida: calling Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos as he continues conversations with foreign leaders.

US withdraws stay request in transgender bathroom case

DALLAS (AP)—President Donald Trump's administration is stepping back from a request made by former President Barack Obama's administration in an ongoing lawsuit over bathroom rights for transgender students in public schools.

In a filing Friday with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the federal government asked to withdraw a motion filed last year that asked a judge to scale back a temporary injunction blocking Obama's guidance on the issue.

The Department of Justice's filing, which came a day after Jeff Sessions was sworn in as Trump's attorney general, said the parties were "currently considering how best to proceed in this appeal."

Texas and 12 other states filed the lawsuit last year challenging the former president's guidance, which directed public schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

A federal judge temporarily blocked the directive nationwide in August. The Obama administration later requested that the hold only apply to the 13 suing

states while it appealed the ruling. A hearing on the request was set for Tuesday, but the Friday court filing asked that the hearing be cancelled.

Justice Department spokesman Peter Carr said Saturday afternoon that the agency declined to comment beyond the filing. Calls to the Texas attorney general's office were not returned.

Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, said they were "incredibly disappointed" by the filing on Friday.

"Our concern is that it's a very clear signal that at a minimum the Department of Justice—and possibly more broadly throughout the Trump administration—will not protect transgender students," she said.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor blocked the Obama administration order in August. The Obama administration had cited Title IX, a federal law guaranteeing equality in education. But the judge, in issuing a temporary injunction, said the Title IX "is not ambiguous" about sex being defined as "the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth."

are going to further reinforce our alliance," he said.

Trump followed Abe with even fewer words, saying in part: "I just want everybody to understand and fully know that the United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent." With that, they left the room, a surprise of sorts given that the usually outspoken Trump neither condemned nor denounced the launch.

In the opening days of his presidency, Trump's diplomacy had a rocky stretch that included contentious phone calls with the leaders of Mexico

and Australia. In contrast, the first visit by a foreign leader at his Mar-a-Lago estate was a friendly weekend of meetings, dinners and golf that suggested the new president was willing to invest time in developing close personal relationships with leaders he feels he can work with.

The president and first lady Melania Trump hosted a delegation dinner with Abe and his wife on Saturday night at his Mar-a-Lago estate. At the time Trump ignored a shouted question about the North Korea launch. Focusing on the positive, he said the Abe visit had

been "very, very good" and that he and the Japanese leader "got to know each other very, very well" over their two days of meals, meetings and golfing.

Trump and Abe, both frequent golfers, left Mar-a-Lago early Saturday morning and headed north to one of Trump's golf courses in Jupiter, Florida. Reporters and photographers from both countries, who were held in a room with blacked-out windows, did not catch a glimpse of the pair as they played. But Trump later posted a photo of them giving each other a high-five on the golf course and

Anti-abortion activists, counter-protesters rally around US

SEATTLE (AP)—Anti-abortion activists emboldened by the new administration of President Donald Trump staged rallies around the country Saturday calling for the federal government to cut off payments to Planned Parenthood, but in some cities counter-protests dwarfed the demonstrations.

Thousands of Planned Parenthood supporters, many wearing the pointy-eared pink hats popularized by last month's women's marches, turned out for a rally in St. Paul, Minnesota, separated by barricades from an anti-abortion crowd of a couple hundred people. In Detroit, about 300 people turned up outside a Planned Parenthood office, most of them supporting the organization. In St. Louis, thousands

marched, many carrying pink signs that read, "I stand with Planned Parenthood."

"They do a lot of work to help women with reproductive health—not just abortions, obviously—but they help with birth control and cancer screenings and counseling and a whole variety of services, and it seems they're under attack right now, and that concerns me greatly," said Kathy Brown, 58, a supporter of the organization who attended the St. Paul rally.

Andy LaBine, 44, of Ramsey, Minnesota, rallied with abortion opponents in St. Paul. LaBine, who was there with his family, said he believes Planned Parenthood is hiding "under a veil of health care."

"I personally believe that abortion is a profound injus-

tice to the human race," LaBine said.

In one of his first acts as president, Trump last month banned U.S. funding to international groups that perform abortions or even provide information about abortions. Vice President Mike Pence strongly opposes abortion, citing his Catholic beliefs, and the newly confirmed health secretary, Tom Price, has supported cutting off taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood.

Federal dollars don't pay for abortions, but the organization is reimbursed by Medicaid for other services, including birth control and cancer screening. Anti-abortion conservatives have long tried to cut Planned Parenthood funds, arguing that the reimbursements help subsidize abortions. Planned

Parenthood says it performed 324,000 abortions in 2014, the most recent year tallied, but the vast majority of women seek out contraception, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, or other services including cancer screenings.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says defunding plans would cut roughly \$400 million in Medicaid money from the group in the year after enactment and would result in roughly 400,000 women losing access to care. Republicans would redirect the funding to community health centers, but Planned Parenthood supporters say women denied Medicaid services from Planned Parenthood may not be able to find replacement care.

Asia

6 killed as strong quake strikes southern PH

SURIGAO, Philippines (AP)—A powerful nighttime earthquake in the southern Philippines killed at least six people and injured more than 120, with officials combing through cracked buildings and nearby towns Saturday to check on the damage and other possible casualties.

The magnitude 6.7 quake roused residents from their sleep late Friday in Surigao del Norte province, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes. The quake was centered about 16 kilometers (8 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Surigao at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), said Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology.

Nearly 100 aftershocks have been felt, officials said. Evacuation centers accommodated wary residents overnight, but many returned home Saturday, Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said, adding that officials were continuing to assess the damage in Surigao and outlying towns.

Provincial information officer Mary Jul Escalante was being interviewed by ABS-CBN TV network when another aftershock struck. "Oh sir, there's an aftershock," she said. "I'm shaking, we have a phobia now."

At least six people were killed, mostly after being struck by falling debris and



concrete walls, provincial disaster-response official Gilbert Gonzales said. At least 126 others were injured in Surigao, where the quake knocked out power and forced the closure

of the domestic airport due to deep cracks in its runway, officials said.

Several buildings, including a state college, a hotel and a shopping mall, were damaged

in the city, located about 700 kilometers (430 miles) southeast of Manila. Surigao was placed under a state of calamity to allow faster release of emergency funds, provincial police chief

^{AP}
A man walks past a damaged building Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017 following a powerful nighttime earthquake that rocked Surigao city, Surigao del Norte province in southern Philippines.

Senior Superintendent Anthony Maghari said by phone.

TV footage showed army troops and other rescuers pulling out the body of a man from the concrete rubble of a damaged house while relatives wept. In Surigao's downtown area, the facade of a number of buildings were heavily cracked, their glass windows shattered with canopies and debris falling on parked cars on the street below.

Roads had visible cracks in the coastal city and a bridge collapsed in an outlying town, officials said.

"The shaking was so strong I could hardly stand," coast guard personnel Rayner Neil Elope said by phone.

Village leaders asked residents to move to a school building on higher ground, Elope said, pausing briefly during a mild aftershock while talking on the phone.

Police officer Jimmy Sarael said he, his wife and two children embraced each other until the shaking eased. They later moved to the moonlit grounds outside the provincial capitol complex to join more than 1,000 jittery residents, he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pentagon says US, Chinese air encounter unintentional

BEIJING (AP)—The Pentagon said a close encounter between a Chinese early warning aircraft and a U.S. Navy patrol plane over the South China Sea appeared to be unintentional and both pilots maintained professional radio contact, in the first such incident known to have taken place under President Donald Trump's administration. A Chinese KJ-200 flew within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of a U.S. Navy P-3C in international airspace over Scarborough Shoal near the Philippines on Wednesday, Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters in Washington. He said the Chinese aircraft "crossed the nose" of the P-3, forcing it to make an immediate turn. "We don't see any evidence that it was intentional," he said, adding that the incident was a "one-off." He said both pilots were in "normal radio contact" and their communication "professional."

13 dead, thousands caught in flooding in central Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Up to 40,000 people were caught in severe flooding following days of torrential rain in central Indonesia, where the death toll from landslides on Bali resort island rose to 13, officials said Saturday. Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency said that incessant rains in the past five days caused rivers on Sumbawa Island to break their banks and inundate seven sub-districts in West

Nusa Tenggara province. The agency's spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said a total of 40,291 villagers were affected by the floods with rainfall ranging from 30 to 70 centimeters (12 to 28 inches). Most of the victims were temporary sheltering at mosques and government offices while more than 8,000 others are still isolated and staying at their stilt houses in two sub-districts that are accessible by rubber boats.

S. Korea investigators to again summon Samsung heir

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors investigating the corruption scandal involving impeached President Park Geun-hye plan to summon Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong again as they look into bribery allegations between Park and the country's largest business group. Lee, the billionaire vice chairman of technology giant Samsung Electronics, will be summoned along with two other group officials on Monday morning, said Lee Kyuchul, the spokesman of the prosecution team. Investigators had sought to arrest Lee when they summoned him last month, but a court ruled there wasn't enough evidence to justify Lee's arrest at that point. Investigators will question Lee over new findings they made in the past few weeks and may consider requesting an arrest warrant for him again, said the prosecution spokesman. The investigators also want to question Park in person, but have yet to agree with her office on how and when to do it.

N. Korea reportedly test fires missile, challenging US

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea reportedly fired a ballistic missile early Sunday in what would be its first such test of the year and an implicit challenge to President Donald Trump, who stood with the Japanese leader as Shinzo Abe called the move "absolutely intolerable."

There was no immediate confirmation from the North, which had recently warned it is ready to test its first intercontinental ballistic missile. The U.S. Strategic Command said it detected and tracked what it assessed to be a medium- or intermediate-range ballistic missile.

North Korean media are often slow to announce such launches, if they announce them at all. As of Sunday afternoon, there had been no official announcement and most North Koreans went about their day with no inkling that the launch was major international news.

The reports came as Trump

was hosting Abe and just days before the North is to mark the birthday of leader Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il.

Appearing with Trump at a news conference at the president's south Florida estate, Abe condemned the missile launch as "absolutely intolerable." Trump followed Abe with even fewer words, saying in part: "I just want everybody to understand and fully know that the United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent."

Abe read a brief statement in which he called on the North to comply fully with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. He said Trump has assured him of U.S. support and that Trump's presence showed the president's determination and commitment.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement the missile was fired from around Banghyon, North Pyongan Province, which is where South Korean officials have said the North test launched its

powerful midrange Musudan missile on Oct. 15 and 20.

The military in Seoul said that the missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles). But Yonhap reported that while determinations are still being made, it was not believed to be an ICBM.

The missile splashed down into the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to the U.S. Strategic Command. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters the missile did not hit Japanese territorial seas. The North conducted two nuclear tests and a slew of rocket launches last year in continued efforts to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's address that the country has reached the final stages of readiness to test an ICBM, which would be a major step forward in its efforts to build a credible nuclear threat to the United States.

Though Pyongyang has been relatively quiet about

the transfer of power to the Trump administration, its state media has repeatedly called for Washington to abandon its "hostile policy" and vowed to continue its nuclear and missile development programs until the U.S. changes its diplomatic approach.

Just days ago, it also reaffirmed its plan to conduct more space launches, which it staunchly defends but which have been criticized because they involve dual use technology that can be transferred to improve missiles.

Kim Dong-yeop, an analyst at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul, speculated the missile could be a Musudan or a similar rocket designed to test engines for an intercontinental ballistic missile that could hit the U.S. mainland. Analysts are divided, however, over how close the North is to having a reliable long-range rocket that could be coupled with a nuclear warhead capable of striking U.S. targets.

World

Rockets hit Baghdad's Green Zone after protests turn violent

BAGHDAD (AP)—Two rockets landed in Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone on Saturday night following clashes at anti-government protests that left five dead, according to Iraqi security and hospital officials.

The rocket attack left no casualties as the munitions landed on the parade grounds in the center of the highly fortified Baghdad compound that is home to Iraq's government and most foreign embassies. It was not immediately clear who fired the projectiles.

Saturday's protests were called for by influential cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and clashes that erupted as crowds pushed toward the Green Zone left two policemen and three protesters dead, according to police and hospital officials.

The officials said six other policemen were injured along with dozens of protesters. The violent outbreak prompted the government to call for a "full investigation."

The demonstrators loyal to al-Sadr gathered in Baghdad's downtown Tahrir square demanded an overhaul of the commission overseeing local elections scheduled this year. Al-Sadr has accused the commission of being riddled with corruption and has

Cyprus tests to see if remains of missing were misidentified

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—A committee uncovering the fate of hundreds of missing Greek and Turkish Cypriots said Saturday it's examining whether past DNA tests on unearthed remains were incorrect, resulting in individuals being misidentified.

The U.N.-led Committee on Missing Persons said the review was prompted after a DNA analysis carried out on remains exhumed in 2015 showed that they belonged to a person whose family had instead received another set of misidentified remains in 2009.

The CMP said the erroneous test was carried out by the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING), while the analysis that discovered the mistake was conducted by the U.S.-based laboratory Bode Cellmark Forensics.

DNA tests conducted by the CING between 2007-2012 are now being reviewed, according to an official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to discuss the case's details.

CMP figures show that 386 identifications took place from



Protesters run from tear gas fired by security forces during a demonstration against corruption for followers of Iraq's influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017.

called for its overhaul.

Shots rang out in central Baghdad as security forces used live fire and tear gas to disperse the crowds. An Asso-

ciated Press team at the scene witnessed ambulances rushing away from protesters suffering from breathing difficulties.

Hospital officials who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not allowed to brief journalists said the policemen died of gunshot wounds. They gave no details as to the cause of death of the protesters.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group told the AP that nine-tenths of al-Bab remains under IS control. The Observatory receives its information from a network of contacts inside the war-torn country.

Meanwhile, rebels and exiled opposition figures appointed Nasr al-Hariri of the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition to lead a delegation to U.N.-brokered talks with the Syrian government, planned for Feb. 20 in Geneva.

Also on Saturday, Iran's Supreme National Security Council authorized Russia to fly its fighters over Iranian airspace to support operations in Syria, the state's

While at times the crowds advanced toward Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone, by afternoon they began to disperse after a statement from al-Sadr's office called on his followers to refrain from trying to enter the compound.

Meanwhile, Iraq's prime minister ordered an investigation into the violence.

"The prime minister ordered a full investigation into the injuries among security forces and protesters during the demonstration today in Tahrir square," read a statement from Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office Saturday evening.

Al-Sadr's office issued another statement Saturday

night following news of protester casualties claiming that "excessive force" was used against the demonstrators and threatened greater protests. "The next time the blood of our martyrs will not go in vain," the statement read.

"We will not give in to threats," said the head of the electoral commission, Serbat Mustafa, in an interview with a local Iraqi television channel Saturday afternoon. Mustafa said he would not offer his resignation and accused al-Sadr of using the commission as a political "scapegoat."

Al-Sadr has been a vocal critic of al-Abadi, and last year protests that included many of his followers breached the highly fortified Green Zone twice.

Attention in Iraq is generally focused on the war against the Islamic State group, with Iraqi forces currently fighting the militants in Mosul, but al-Abadi is also facing a serious power struggle in Baghdad. A deepening economic crisis and persistent insurgent attacks in the Iraqi capital have fueled support for powerful political opponents of al-Abadi like al-Sadr.

Al-Abadi has said that he respects the rights of all Iraqis to peacefully demonstrate but called on the protesters Saturday to obey the law and respect public and private property.

The Green Zone is home to most of Iraq's foreign embassies and is the seat of the Iraqi government.

Slow going for Turkish-backed forces in north Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition forces have managed to capture just one-tenth of a north Syrian town from Islamic State militants, a conflict monitoring group said Saturday, despite reaching its outskirts seven weeks ago.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group told the AP that nine-tenths of al-Bab remains under IS control. The Observatory receives its information from a network of contacts inside the war-torn country.

Meanwhile, rebels and exiled opposition figures appointed Nasr al-Hariri of the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition to lead a delegation to U.N.-brokered talks with the Syrian government, planned for Feb. 20 in Geneva.

Also on Saturday, Iran's Supreme National Security Council authorized Russia to fly its fighters over Iranian airspace to support operations in Syria, the state's

semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

In August, Iran confirmed that Russia bombers launched airstrikes from near the Iranian city of Hamedan, 280 kilometers (175 miles) southwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran to hit targets in eastern Syria. Iran is a staunch supporter of the Syrian government.

In al-Bab, Turkish aircraft and artillery pounded IS positions as allied opposition forces grabbed new blocks in the town, according to the Syrian Observatory. Battlefield reports from Syrian opposition forces corroborated the Observatory's al-Bab review.

The Turkish-backed Ahrar al-Sham militia announced Saturday on Twitter that opposition forces had taken the city's silos and sports complex in its southwestern districts. The coalition's operations room released a video on social media showing its fighters at the gates of the Hikma hospital. Britain-based Syr-

ian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group also reported the hospital's capture.

But these amount to just marginal advances in the town, where some 100,000 residents lived before the start of the Syrian civil war, six years ago. Al-Bab lies about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the Turkish border.

Turkey is leading Syrian opposition forces in a broad operation called "Euphrates Shield" against the Islamic State group and U.S.-backed Kurdish forces northern Syria. Turkey wants to clear groups it says are terrorists away from its border, while Syrian opposition forces are looking to secure territory before rival government forces arrive from the south.

Turkey is the opposition's chief backer in Syria's multi-sided civil war. It has deployed troops, tanks, artillery and its air force inside the country as part of the northern Syria operation.

Turkey's Anadolu news

agency began reporting Turkish troop fatalities in al-Bab on Dec. 21. That week, 16 Turkish soldiers were killed in clashes or ambushes by the Islamic State in the town. The military Saturday announced the death of another soldier in the fighting in al-Bab. The death brings the total number of Turkish troops killed in the military operation in northern Syria to 65.

The fighting has exacted a civilian toll as well: According to the Observatory, 267 civilians have been killed by Euphrates Shield artillery and airstrikes on al-Bab and two satellite villages since Dec. 21.

The IS group's Amaq news agency reported that Turkish, American and Russian warplanes flew more than 80 sorties over the town on Friday and fired 150 artillery rounds.

The three powers are coordinating their aerial campaigns against the Islamic State group and other al-Qaida-linked factions in northern Syria.

Health & Fitness

Considering switching to a vegetarian diet



BENEFITS OF EATING LOCAL

According to the US Department of Agriculture, eating fruits and vegetables is great for your health. An essential part of eating fruits and vegetables is making sure they are fresh and one of the best ways to assure this is to eat locally grown produce. In addition to health benefits, eating local is also good for your community. Below are seven benefits of eating local produce:

Local Foods Are Fresher (and Tastes Better!)

Locally grown produce is much fresher than produce that has been shipped in from far away. Fresher produce means it is more flavorful and more nutritious than produce from other countries or states.

Local Foods Are Seasonal

Local farms allow their fruits and vegetables to ripen fully without having to use chemicals or gas to speed along this process. Eating produce in peak season means you are enjoying these foods when they are the most abundant, which in turn makes them more affordable.

Local Foods Help to Preserve Farmland and Green Space

Purchasing locally grown vegetables and fruits helps maintain and preserve the green space and farmland in your local community.

Local Foods Promote Food Safety

The fewer processes between your produce's source and your plate, the fewer the chances are for contamination. For example, if there is a large outbreak of e.coli in lettuce grown in California but the lettuce in your kitchen is from a local farm here in Alabama, you know your produce is safe to consume.

Local Foods Stimulate Variety

Farmers who participate in local markets and supply to local restaurants have the demand to be able to grow more types of fruits and vegetables. More variety means instead of simply having "tomatoes" you are able to choose from a multiple assortment of tomato types such as "lemon boys", "brandywines" and early girls".

Local Foods Support Your Community's Economy

Buying produce from local farmers and restaurants keeps your money close to home. This works to build the economy in your community instead of a corporation in another state or country. Since the produce travels through fewer hands, more of the money spent actually gets back to those who grew it.

Local Foods Create a Sense of Community

Buying locally grown produce and knowing where your food is from unites you to those who grow and raise it. Instead of having a relationship with a corporate supermarket, you develop smaller relationships to multiple food sources. Developing these personal relationships with growers at local farmer's markets can be beneficial to you. For example, they can personally let you know when your favorite variety of bean will be available or when the strawberries you love will be on sale.



A few things to consider when making the switch to a vegetarian diet.

DREAMSTIME

Dear Mayo Clinic: I am 58 and considering becoming a vegetarian. I know it will be important to make sure I get enough protein, but are there other nutrients I should focus on, as well?

A: Following a vegetarian diet is a healthy way of eating. Multiple studies have linked vegetarian diets to a reduced incidence of chronic disease and cancer. Excluding meat or animal products makes a diet healthier, but there are other factors to consider.

As with all dietary patterns, it's important not to rely too heavily on processed foods, which can be high in calories, sugar, fat and sodium. Vegetarians have an advantage in that they usually eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains than people who consume meat.

The key to a healthy vegetarian diet, as with all diets, is to include a variety of foods. No single food can provide all the nutrients your body needs. It's especially important for older adults to be aware of their nutritional needs, since aging can increase the risk of nutritional deficiencies. Talk with your doctor or a registered dietitian about developing a healthy vegetarian eating plan that meets your needs. In gen-

eral, though, pay attention to these nutrients:

- **Calcium and vitamin D.** Calcium helps maintain strong bones and prevent fractures, which is especially important as you age. Milk and dairy foods are highest in calcium. However, dark green vegetables are good plant sources when eaten in sufficient quantities. Calcium-enriched and fortified products, including juices and cereals, are other options. Vitamin D also plays an important role in bone health, immune function and in the reduction of inflammation. Vitamin D is added to milk, some brands of soy and rice milk, and some cereals. If you don't eat enough fortified foods and have limited sun exposure, you may need a vitamin D supplement derived from plants. Of note is that research studies suggest a high intake of vegetables and fruits is associated with increased bone mineral density, which is probably due to mechanisms other than calcium or vitamin D.

- **Vitamin B-12.** Vitamin B-12 is necessary to produce red blood cells and prevent anemia. Dairy and eggs are good sources, if you include these in your diet. Older adults tend to have more difficulty absorbing

vitamin B-12 from food and may want to consider fortified foods or vitamin supplements to make up for any deficiencies. This is especially true for those on a vegan diet, which excludes dairy products.

- **Protein.** Protein helps maintain healthy skin, bones, muscles and organs. Eggs and dairy products are good sources, and you don't need to eat large amounts to meet your protein needs. You can get sufficient protein from plant-based foods (e.g., soy products, legumes, lentils, seeds, nuts and whole grains) if you eat a variety throughout the day.

- **Omega-3 fatty acids.** Omega-3 fatty acids are important for heart health. Diets that don't include fish and eggs are generally low in active forms of omega-3 fatty acids. Canola oil, soy oil, walnuts, ground flaxseed and soybeans are good sources of a plant-based form of omega-3s called alpha-linolenic acid. However, conversion of alpha-linolenic acid to the omega-3 types that are best for heart health is much less efficient.

- **Iron and zinc.** Iron is a crucial component of red blood cells. Dried beans and peas, lentils, enriched cereals, whole-grain products, dark leafy green vegetables, and dried fruit are good sources of iron. Be-

cause iron isn't as easily absorbed from plant sources, the recommended intake of iron for vegetarians is almost double that of nonvegetarians. To help your body absorb iron, eat foods rich in vitamin C (e.g., strawberries, citrus fruits or tomatoes) at the same time as you're eating iron-containing foods. As with iron, zinc isn't as easily absorbed from plant sources as it is from animal products. Cheese is a good option if you eat dairy. Plant sources of zinc include whole grains, soy products, legumes, nuts and wheat germ.

- **Iodine.** Iodine is a component in thyroid hormones, which help regulate metabolism, growth and function of key organs. Plant-based diets are typically low in iodine. However, just one-fourth of a teaspoon of iodized salt a day provides a significant amount of iodine.

With just a little planning, a vegetarian diet can easily provide you with all of the nutrition you need and likely will improve your health. If you need a good starting point for additional information, including recipes, visit Vegetarian Nutrition—a website created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics—at <https://vegetariannutrition.net>.

(Mayo Clinic News Network)



Tan Holdings



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

This advertorial is sponsored by
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

Host Alec Baldwin, 'SNL' cast skewer Trump White House

NEW YORK (AP)—In tune with the new administration of alternative facts, viewers are embracing a comic alternative president.

Alec Baldwin, who has scored in guest shots on “Saturday Night Live” with his mocking impersonation of Donald Trump since the campaign’s final weeks, presided Saturday night as guest host of the NBC comedy show, serving up yet another Trump masquerade.

In his spoof, President Trump made good on a tweet-ed vow to “see you in court” directed at the three Ninth Circuit federal judges who last week refused to lift a stay preventing his immigration ban from being enforced.

His chosen venue: “The People’s Court,” where he was suing the three judges.

“I’m right, they’re wrong,” Trump erupted. “I want the travel ban reinstated. I also want \$725.”

Then, as a character witness, he brought in Russian president Vladimir Putin (Beck Bennett), who praised Trump as “my little American Happy Meal.”

In another sketch, Bald-



win, making his record 17th “SNL” hosting appearance, took social relevance to an outrageous level as an ad man brainstorming a Chee-

tos commercial for the Super Bowl. In another, he was an obstetrician examining Beyonce, pregnant with twins

(played by a chatty Kenan Thompson and surprise guest Tracey Morgan). But while Baldwin was

the drawing card for viewers seeking political satire, the night belonged to ultra-versatile “SNL” cast member Kate

McKinnon. This Feb. 4, 2017 photo released by NBC shows Alec Baldwin as President Donald Trump in the opening sketch of “Saturday Night Live,” in New York.

On “Weekend Update,” she depicted Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who last week was silenced by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in the midst of final debate over the confirmation of Jeff Sessions, Trump’s nominee for attorney general.

Also in the show, McKinnon was almost unrecognizable as newly sworn-in Sessions himself, played as drawing, com-pone and ghoulish.

And in yet another sketch, she encored her crowd-pleasing lampoon of White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, who this time was a crazed stalker pursuing CNN anchor Jake Tapper (Bennett).

Opening the show, Melissa McCarthy was back with the portrayal of hot-tempered White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer that wowed viewers on last week’s show.

Doll based on transgender teen to debut at New York Toy Fair

WASHINGTON (AP)—A New York doll maker says it will be selling what it believes is the first transgender doll on the market.

The doll is based on Jazz Jennings, the teenage transgender subject of the TLC documentary series “I am Jazz.” It will make its debut at the New York Toy Fair next week and be available on the Tonner Doll Co.’s web site and in specialty stores in July.

A spokesman for the company said the 18-inch doll, which has a “genderless” plastic mold typical of most dolls, is being tested for kids aged 8 years and older and is expected to retail for \$89.99.

In comparison, the popular mass-market “American Girl” 18-inch dolls, which come with a book, sell for \$115 on AmericanGirl.com.

Tonner Doll, which is based in Kingston, New York, said Friday that the “Jazz” doll is being launched as a test for the specialty-retail market and will be sold by 25 to 50 stores. If it’s a hit, the company hopes to take it to the mass market.

The doll was designed and sculpted by company found-

er Robert Tonner. His company has made dolls based on a variety of TV, film and book characters including Spiderman, Harry Potter, Dr. Who and Wonder Woman.

“Jazz stands for everything I respect from a human nature point of view—she’s incredibly brave, intelligent, warm-hearted and creative,” Tonner said.

Jennings appeared at age 6 on a Barbara Walters 20/20 special in 2007. She has identified as a female since she could talk, her parents told ABC News.

She is the youngest person ever to be recognized in The Advocate Magazine’s “Top Forty Under 40” annual list and was named as one of Time Magazine’s Most Influential Teens for 2014 and 2015.

In 2014, Jennings co-wrote a children’s picture book titled “I Am Jazz” and her memoir, “Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen,” was released last summer.

The Jazz Jennings doll comes 40 years after the release of the “Gay Bob” doll, widely thought to be the first doll based on a gay character.

Dominican paper apologizes for using Baldwin photo for Trump

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Alec Baldwin does a pretty convincing Donald Trump impersonation—just ask a newspaper in the Dominican Republic.

El Nacional published an apology on Saturday after mistakenly running a photo of the actor doing his impression of the U.S. president on “Saturday Night Live” instead of Trump himself.

Accompanying an article in its Friday edition headlined in Spanish: “Trump says settlements in Israel don’t favor peace,” a photo of a scowling Baldwin in a blond wig appears next to a photo of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a statement posted on its

website, the Dominican newspaper said a photo of Baldwin imitating Trump—over the caption “Donald Trump, president of the USA”—was published on page 19 and the mistake went unnoticed by the newspaper’s staff.

“El Nacional apologizes to its readers and anyone who felt affect by the publication” of the photo, the statement said.

Trump has lashed out at the way “Saturday Night Live” has lampooned him, saying Baldwin’s semi-regular portrayal of him “stinks.”



This screen grab of the Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 digitized version of Dominican Republic’s El Nacional print edition shows comedian Alec Baldwin doing his impression of President Donald Trump on “Saturday Night Live,” next to a photo of Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the paper’s international page with the Spanish headline: “Trump says settlements in Israel don’t favor peace.” The Spanish caption under Baldwin’s photo reads: “Donald Trump, president of U.S.”

Museum ends Shia LaBeouf project, citing safety concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—The Museum of the Moving Image announced Friday it has closed a performance art project involving Shia LaBeouf, citing “serious public safety hazards.”

The project involved the actor and others chanting “He will not divide us” in front of a camera outside the museum since Donald Trump’s first day as presi-

dent three weeks ago. It was scheduled to last for four years.

The public was invited by LaBeouf and two collaborators to participate and the performances were live streamed around the clock.

But the museum said in a statement that the installation

had become “a flash-point for violence and was disrupted from its original intent.” Museum officials added that they were proud the museum had launched the “engaging and thought-provoking digital art installation.”

Last month, LaBeouf was arrested after an altercation.

And a 21-year-old was arrested last week on assault charges after a participant said the man threw eggs on him and ran.

Police officers were assigned to the location 24 hours a day and, at one point, police filed a report after threats were made through the city’s 311 non-emergency line that people were going to be shot.



LaBeouf

Piers Morgan, J.K. Rowling in Twitter fight over politics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—British TV personality Piers Morgan and British author J.K. Rowling are in a Twitter war over American politics.

He called her work “drivel” and she called him “amoral” after Morgan defended the U.S. government’s travel ban during an appearance on HBO’s “Real Time with Bill Maher” on Friday.

Morgan faced off with Australian comic Jim Jefferies on the episode during a discussion of the executive order. Morgan said it was “not a Muslim ban,” and Jefferies directed an expletive at him. Rowling tweeted that it was “satisfying” to hear Jefferies say that.

A flurry of tweets between Rowling and Morgan followed.



In this Nov. 10, 2016 file photo, J. K. Rowling attends the world premiere of “Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them” in New York.

Ukrainian author seized in Belarus, ordered to leave

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—A noted Ukrainian poet and novelist says he was seized by security agents in the middle of the night while visiting the capital of Belarus and ordered to leave the country.

In a posting on a social media website, Serhiy Zhadan said Saturday that police confronted him in his hotel room in Minsk about 2 a.m.

“Nothing was explained ... I had to spend the night in a cell,”

he wrote. He said he was later informed by the country’s security agency, the KGB, that he was not allowed to be in Belarus because Russia in 2015 banned him for alleged participation in terrorist activities.

Belarus and Russia share a visa regime.

Zhadan’s work, which critics have compared to that of William Burroughs and Beat writers, criticizes post-Soviet society.

NYC gallery displays migrants’ backpacks, belongings

NEW YORK (AP)—A Manhattan gallery is displaying a wall of 700 backpacks and belongings of migrants who illegally crossed the U.S. border. Some of them died in the Arizona desert.

“Now, more than ever, in the aftermath of a presidential campaign that fed off anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric, it is absolutely critical to look deeper into the migrant experience

and raise questions as to what the future may hold for the thousands of people fleeing dire poverty, drug cartel violence, and political instability to the south,” said a statement from the curators of the exhibit that opened recently in the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center of The New School.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly promised to build a wall along the U.S.

border with Mexico.

“We built this wall of backpacks,” said artist and photographer Richard Barnes, who helped create the display.

In their backpacks, migrants brought clothing, other personal items and even photographs of themselves — but not enough water to guarantee survival in the harsh Sonoran Desert.

The exhibit, called “State of Exception,” is the result of

a project started at the University of Michigan by anthropologist Jason De Leon and expanded by Barnes and another artist and curator, Amanda Krugliak.

“With this exhibition, we are pleased to declare the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center galleries a state of inclusion in which migrants are welcome,” said Radhika Subramaniam, the center’s director and chief curator.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Trump has Richard Gere asking: ‘Where’s the beef?’

BERLIN (AP) — Richard Gere says U.S. President Donald Trump lacks substance, likening him to a burger without the filling. The actor, who’s in Berlin promoting his new film “The Dinner” about a politician facing tough personal and moral choices, says Trump “has pushed it to the limit.” In an interview Friday with The Associated Press, Gere quoted the 1980s television commercial in which a fast-food chain customer asks “where’s the beef?” when handed a giant hamburger bun. Speaking of Trump, Gere said: “with him, there’s no beef there, there’s no protein, there’s no center, there’s no resonance.” The star of films such as “Pretty Woman” and “An Officer and a Gentleman” later told an audience at the Berlin Film Festival that Trump had made people fear refugees by equating them with attackers.

Coen brothers polishing script for ‘Scarface’ remake

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Joel and Ethan Coen will polish the script for a planned “Scarface” remake. Universal Pictures announced Friday that “an explosive reimagining” of the gangster classic will be released in August 2018. Diego Luna is set to star in the role famously played by Al Pacino in Brian De Palma’s 1983 remake of the 1932 original. The Coen brothers have played script doctor a few times recently, polishing the screenplays for Steven Spielberg’s “Bridge of Spies” and Angelina Jolie’s “Unbroken.” No director has yet been announced for the project.

Sting, Timberlake, Legend and Miranda to perform at Oscars

This year’s Oscar telecast will have some big Grammy Award winners: Sting, Justin Timberlake, John Legend and Lin-Manuel Miranda are all slated to perform the tunes nominated for Best Original Song. Timberlake will perform “Can’t Stop The Feeling” from the movie “Trolls” and Sting will perform “The Empty Chair” from “Jim: The James Foley Story,” the Oscar-nominated song he co-wrote with three-time Oscar nominee J. Ralph. Legend will perform both “Audition (The Fools Who Dream)” and “City of Stars” from “La La Land” and Miranda will team up with Auli’i Cravalho to perform the Oscar-nominated song “How Far I’ll Go” from “Moana.” The Oscars air Feb. 26 on ABC, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. (AP)

Imagine Dragons, Macklemore, Skrillex lead ACLU concert

NEW YORK (AP) — Outrage over President Donald Trump’s travel ban has prompted a spring fundraising concert for the American Civil Liberties Union that will feature a diverse lineup, including Macklemore, Imagine Dragons, Incubus, Miguel and Skrillex. DJ and producer Zedd, a Russian-born immigrant, organized the April 3 concert called “Welcome!” at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Other performers include Bebe Rexha, Camila Cabello, Machine Gun Kelly, Mija, Daya, Halsey and Tinashe. “All of us artists have a huge responsibility, whether we want it or not,” said Zedd, whose real name is Anton Zaslavski. “I was really surprised how above and beyond people were willing to go to be part of this show.” Ticket prices range from \$49.50 to \$249.50 and more for VIP experiences.

A day of service is one too many for reluctant employees

DEAR ABBY: My boss wants to do a day of community service with the staff to help others and improve relationships in the workplace. I thought it was a great idea; a lot of my co-workers were unsure and wanted more information about what specifically we would do. My boss said she would get more information and send it out to us. However, a few of my co-workers are outright opposed to the idea and think they shouldn’t be required to do it.

A year ago when this came up, one of them said they shouldn’t have to give up their free time. I think it’s wrong to turn down a chance to help others when they are able. What should I do to make sure my boss’s intentions are understood while not being off-putting or appearing holier-than-thou?

BLEEDING HEART

DEAR BLEEDING HEART: The person who should be making her intentions clear is your boss. It should not be your responsibility. Frankly, I can see both sides of this question. Some companies do this not only to “do good,” but also to build goodwill in the community and team spirit in the office. Usually, participation is voluntary.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. He’s eight years younger than I am. We have a great relationship except for our worldviews. While I am liberal, he is

very racist. When the subject comes up, our conversations can become very heated.

I believe everyone is entitled to his/her opinion, but both of us have a hard time validating our opinions for each other. My boyfriend never directs his racist comments toward anyone in particular, but it’s hard for me not to take it that way.

One of my best friends is African-American, and my son is currently dating someone who is biracial. How do we agree to disagree without anyone being upset or hurt in the end?

OPEN-MINDED IN INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR OPEN-MINDED: After two years of togetherness, your boyfriend knows full well that one of your best friends is African-American and that your son is dating someone who is biracial. You may never be able to broaden his mindset, but the next time he makes a racist remark, if you haven’t already, tell him you don’t want to hear it because it makes you uncomfortable.

And while you’re at it, make sure he understands that if he says anything that could possibly hurt your friend or your son, the romance will be history.

P.S. You must be desperate for companionship to have tolerated this for two years.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A family member likes to use the toilet as

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a garbage disposal. I’ve asked her to please dump the food scraps into a trash bag or pour them out in the backyard, but she prefers the “easy flushing.” How do I get her to stop the extra wear-and-tear on our toilet? Plumbers are expensive.

MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN

DEAR MDTD: Yes, plumbers ARE expensive. And there’s a reason why we are supposed to use receptacles for what they’re intended. If you are responsible for the toilet that’s being used as a garbage disposal, make sure the family member knows she will be footing the bill for the plumber. However, if the toilet is her responsibility, this may be a lesson she will need to learn—over and over—on her own.

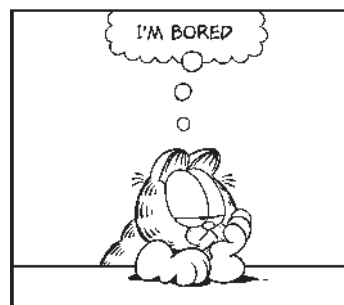
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

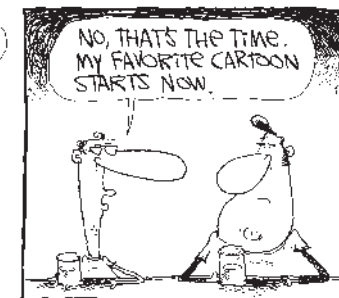
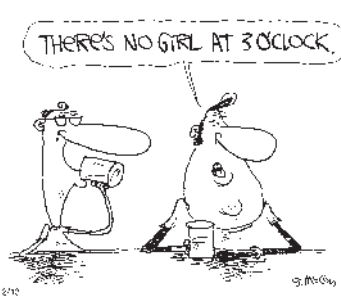
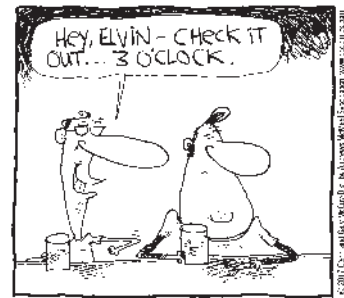
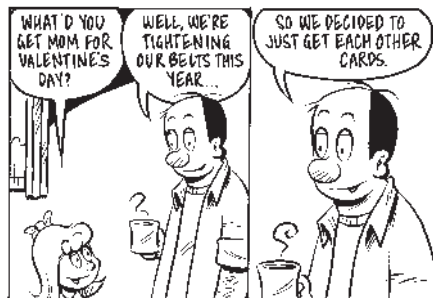


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pear-shaped fruit

4 Tic

9 Dance club VIPs

12 Epoch

13 Trattoria offering

14 Charged bit

15 Firehouse dog, often

17 Ms. Longoria

18 Illustrations

19 Foot part

21 Kind of inspection

24 Sub shop

25 Surgeon product

26 Branch

28 Ceremonies

31 Yaks

33 "Platoon" locale

35 Pepper dispenser

36 Form

38 "Wham!"

DOWN

1 Nourished

2 Lyricist

3 Guy's date

4 Rival of Athens

5 Dress-maker's aid

6 — was saying ...

7 Strait-laced

8 Way

9 Nutrition expert

10 Jupiter's alias

11 Crisp cookie

16 Avril

20 Slender

21 PTA and NEA, e.g.

22 Ark builder

23 Lovin' Spoonful co-founder

27 Atlas

29 Exile isle

30 Open-handed

32 Hot tubs

34 Poking fun at

37 Votes in

39 Belted areas

42 Patriot

44 Make lace

45 Rubbish

46 New York canal

50 Estuary

51 Little rascal

52 "Right you —!"

53 Petty ppeeve

Solution time: 26 mins.

Friday's answer 2-13

WET TANK WRENS
HAY ONE HORNE
ISP TOP SECRET
FEE ORATE
FLAB ALA SCOW
ICK IOHHA
AWARD ROOKS
TOPDOG TSK
LEES AMY ELAN
TOPDOLLAR BO
AVERS INFORE
MANSE ATERED

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mena Suvari, 38; Kelly Hu, 49; Peter Gabriel, 67; Stockard Channing, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take initiative and concentrate on getting concrete results. Change will lead to greater professional and financial opportunities. A steady pace will ensure that you are moving toward the freedom you desire and the chance to follow your dreams. Negotiations will result in a contract that could encourage a positive lifestyle change. Protect your rights. Your numbers are 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Settle in and make a point to finish what you start. Showing consistency will result in suggestions that will give you the incentive necessary to put your creative talents to use. Measure your success by accolades, not cash. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Lock into something that will bring you good results. Don't waffle when you should be showing leadership. Disappointment will result from inconsistency or lack of confidence. Don't lose out when you should be gaining ground. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Uncertainty will limit you socially and where important partnerships are concerned. Don't be afraid to voice your opinions. Honesty should take priority over trying to keep the peace. Find out where you stand and take action. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Live out your dream. Let your creativity lead the way. Refuse to let anyone force you into a

debate or curtail your freedom. Stick to what you know and live within your means. Follow your heart and minimize stress. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Harmony and balance will help you get your way. Offering viable options for anyone who doubts you will turn matters around swiftly. Your steady yet innovative approach to life and the way you do things will capture positive attention. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A serious look at the way you live will help you figure out what to do next. Consider making a commitment to live life your way or to find common ground with someone you want to be with forever. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Express your feelings and share your plans with people you know and trust. Love is on the rise, and family and friends will play a major role in the decisions you make. Be a participant and personal gains will be yours. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Feel your way through whatever you face today. If someone isn't being kind, take it as a sign to do your own thing. Immerse yourself in a creative project or attend to something that helps you explore new possibilities and options. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get ready to make changes domestically and with regards to your friendships and associations with others. Show discipline and you will accomplish all that you set out to do. Personal improvements are highlighted. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't rely on others to do things the way you want to. Following someone else will get you into trouble. Do your best to stick to your plans and try to avoid letting things get out of hand. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Jump into action and express your thoughts and plans. You'll make headway if you are quick to put your talents to good use. Embark on missions that promise to improve your position personally and professionally. Romance is in the stars. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Assess each situation cautiously. It's OK to take your time if it will ensure that you get the results you want. Take an open and honest approach when dealing with important relationships. Be willing to compromise. ***

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, thoughtful and resilient. You are intuitive and forthright.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2		9	6		1	4		3
			7			2		
1	5				8			7
5		4					1	6
				8				
3	2					5		9
9			5				3	4
		1			9			
7	5	2		4	6			8

Difficulty Level ★

2/13

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	2	8	9	5	1	7	3
9	3	8	6	1	7	4	2	5
1	7	5	3	4	2	6	8	9
8	2	4	5	6	3	9	1	7
3	1	9	7	2	4	8	5	6
5	6	7	9	8	1	3	4	2
7	8	3	4	5	9	2	6	1
2	5	6	1	3	8	7	9	4
4	9	1	2	7	6	5	3	8

Bobby Levy ★★★★★

2/13

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STEVE HARVEY

Solution: 10 letters

N M S M I S S U N I V E R S E
O A T E L E V I S I O N O S M
T D A R O T C A D F A G T T I
N E N C E S G N I K A O T R T
Y A D E P S M M K C H N Y A W
W B U G I L A Y I S E T T I O
M R P A F R L H G K I H W G H
O A E M C U C I C R N A I H S
R N R I F E B I B O T O N T E
G D A Y S E R E E S S N N S T K
A I A I L E L S O L L O P A O
N L O T D E S H O I D A R L J
P L T O C E E V E T S L U K U
E I R O J R A M T H I N K G D
L B E N J A M I N Y E V R A H

©2017 Andrew Wiles, www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/13

Actor, Apollo, Benjamin, Brandi, Broderick, Celebrity, Chicago, Eloise, Harvey, Host, Image, Jason, Jesse, Jokes, Karli, Kent, Kids, Kings, Laugh, Little Big Shots, Madea, Marcia, Marjorie, Mary Lee, Miss Universe, Morgan, NAACP, Noah, No Chaser, Playful, Radio, Showtime, Stand-up, Steve, Straight Talk, Television, Think, Twins, Wynton

Last Friday's Answer: Whisk
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Crocodile tears

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ILE
COD
CRO

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames



SM Enterprises
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Offers the following services:

- Boom Truck & Moving Services
- Masonry
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Tree Removal/Land Clearing
- New House Construction

Call: 670.989-2600 or 670.588-2600

SAIPAN COUNTRY CLUB
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(01) BOOKKEEPER (Full-time)

Summary

Update and maintain accounts payable and receivable, calculate profit and loss statements, prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts, monitor loans and payments, total, balance and reconcile billing vouchers and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.

Job Duties:

- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivable.
- Calculate profit and loss statements.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts.
- Process payroll.
- Prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments. Total, balance and reconcile billing vouchers and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.

Qualification Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Accounting preferred. 3 years of experience preferred.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks required.
- Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs.
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years work experience in accounting.
- Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System.
- Must work with minimal or no supervision.
- Must have own transportation to and from the workplace.

Scope

- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office
- Salary Range

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com.
Deadline to submit application will be Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 4:00 pm. No phone calls please.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed that effective January 1st, 2017, LBAT Corporation located in Koblerville Saipan is officially closed for business.

share the power
of a wishSM

MAKE-A-WISHSM

Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC
Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

Helps Achieve!
Saipan Tribune



EMPLOYMENT

3 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum salary. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

1 Welder, 3 mason, 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber & 2 Gen. maintenance & repair worker, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, 8 Houseworker, 6 Landscaper, 2 waiter/waitress, 2 Heavy equipment operator, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.



LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay lump-sum. Look for Zheng at 287-7676.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

WANTED

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL

Area of expertise to include one or more of the following - biology, geology, natural sciences, environmental engineer. BSc or higher. Seeking experienced, motivated professionals with project management experience. Salary commensurate with experience.

Email: opp17@yahoo.com

 **TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP**
is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **COOK**
- **KITCHEN HELPERS**
- **BAKER**
- **SERVERS**

No phone calls please, email resume to:

hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com

Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

D&Q
International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company


D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is a leading distributor of quality consumer Goods. We have an immediate opening for an

**ACCOUNTING CLERK
ORDER ENTRY**


- Position also includes some warehouse checking duties.
- High school graduate required, ideally with some further education.
- Experience in wholesale or similar industry preferred.
- Computer skills necessary preferably with experience in Excel, Outlook, Sage or similar accounting system.
- You should be result-oriented and must be well-organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.
- Applicants must be able to permanently and legally work in the C.N.M.I.
- Applications close February 17, 2017.

We offer an excellent pay and benefits package.
D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at CTSI Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711.
E-mail info@dqsaipan.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-016

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to prepare a comparative feasibility assessment of water supply treatment alternatives, including desalination (RO and thermal/evaporative). The assessment will compare, at a minimum, location, type, size, cost, and funding options for each alternative to implement, construct and operate.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room No. 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. A teleconference number will be provided to interested off-island participants to call in and attend.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC RFP-17-016 – Feasibility Study of Water Supply Alternatives for the Island of Saipan”* to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 02, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2017**, to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (1)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver’s license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Cargo and Freight Agent (1)

Associate’s Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 17, 2017.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.
P.O. Box 500236, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624 / 5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB TITLE: Accounting Clerk

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for processing accounts receivables and payable. Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. The employee may be assigned to prepare BGRT, excise tax, daily sales and collections reports.

Tasks:

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information.
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes.
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers.
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software.
- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents.
- Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits and losses.
- Code documents according to company procedures.
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Preferably has a degree in Business Administration or at least Associates degree in Accounting or equivalent plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge in AccPac software desirable.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is **no later than 5:00pm on February 14, 2017**. Pacific Trading Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth Development Authority
2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CLOSING DATE:

Comptroller, Ungraded
Up to \$70,000
To Be Announced

This position is an excepted service position. The incumbent in this position shall manage the Accounting Department and provide information primarily in nature to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board of Directors may require.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Oversees the activities of the Accounting Department for the accurate and timely dissemination of financial management reports including but not limited to, internal and external financial statements productions.
- Keeps the official books and accounts of the Authority
- Prepares an annual report of the financial condition of the Authority for the Board Directors.
- Prepares response to audit exceptions and recommend alternative solutions.
- Approves all accruals and journal entries for posting to the general ledger.
- Supervises and reviews the work of the accounting staff to assure the CDA’s financial records are properly maintained and recorded.
- Tracks all of CDA’s investments and make recommendations to increase income.
- Prepares and monitors in conjunctions with Bond Trustee designated Trust Department Officer a schedule of investments within the guidelines established by the Trust Agreement and the CDA Act with scheduled maturity dated to provide the quality of funds to meet the CNMI capital improvement projects local matching funds requirements. Said plan to be concurred by the Executive Director.
- Prepares financial statements and other documents as directed by the Executive Director and/or the Chairman of the Board during the development and underwriting of any bond issue.
- Maintains a profit and loss statement on all Bond issues and Trust Funds.
- Participates in a wide variety of special projects and compile a variety of special reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
- Reviews all CIP contracts and determine if fund certification is appropriate.
- Maintains financial records of all capital improvement projects funded by CDA and/or those for which CDA provided any local matching funds.
- Attends all CDA and DCD meetings.
- Establishes and maintain systems and controls which verify the integrity of all systems, process, and data.
- Provides training for the accounting employees.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from a U.S. accredited college or university. Minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in government or financial accounting. U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Must have knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software; Able to make legislative presentations and to interpret laws, contracts, ordinances, and regulations; Effectively communicate orally and in writing; Possesses a strong management skills; Proficient in MS Office applications; and Able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationship with others.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA’s website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

Durant leads Warriors to win in return to Oklahoma City



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—After a roller-coaster of emotions surrounding his return to Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant was glad to come out with a win and move on.

Durant scored 34 points while being booed throughout the night, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Thunder 130-114 in a chippy game on Saturday night.

It was Durant's first game back since he left the Thunder after eight seasons in Oklahoma City to join the rival Warriors as a free agent last summer. The crowd jeered him loudly during pregame warmups, starter introductions and whenever he touched the ball.

"Basketball is fun in general, especially in an environment like this," Durant said. "The crowd was amazing. They were loud—as loud as I've ever heard them."

Russell Westbrook did it all for the Thunder with 47 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists. In the end, Golden State's depth and balance were too much. Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson both scored 26 points for the Warriors.

Emotions ran high throughout the game. At one point in the third quarter, Durant and Westbrook yelled at each other as they walked toward their benches during a timeout.

Westbrook said too much attention has been paid to his relationship with Durant.

"I do think it doesn't make sense," Westbrook said. "It's over with. He plays for his team, I play with my team. Let him do his thing, I do my thing, and that's it, plain and simple."

Later in the third quarter, Oklahoma City's Andre Roberson fouled Durant hard, and the two got in each other's faces and were called for technical fouls.

Cavaliers 125, Nuggets 109

In Cleveland, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving each scored 27 points and combined for three 3-pointers in Cleveland's long-range barrage in the third quarter.

James added 12 assists in 32 minutes as the defending NBA champions won for the fifth time in six February games after going 7-8 in January.

Back from a four-game road trip, the Cavs didn't find their range until after halftime, when they opened the third with an 18-0 run to take control.

Irving drained two 3s on consecutive possessions, Kevin Love hit two more and



James dropped another in a span of 2:43 as Cleveland pulled away and improved to 23-5 at Quicken Loans Arena.

Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets, who played their third game in four nights.

76ers 117, Heat 109

In Philadelphia, Nerlens Noel, Robert Covington and Dario Saric each scored 19 points to lead the Philadelphia over Mi-

ami, snapping the Heat's winning streak at 13 games.

Goran Dragic had 30 points for the Heat, whose winning streak was the longest in the NBA this season, the third-best in team history and tops in league history by a sub-.500 team. Miami, which fell 1 1/2 games back of idle Detroit for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot, hadn't lost since Jan. 13 at Milwaukee.

Philadelphia center Joel

Embiid missed his ninth straight game and 12th in the last 13 due to a bone bruise on his left knee. Team president Bryan Colangelo also revealed before the game that Embiid has a slightly torn meniscus in the same knee.

Philadelphia put seven players in double figures.

Clippers 107, Hornets 102

In Charlotte, North Carolina,

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Andre Roberson (21) defends in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017.

Blake Griffin had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Austin Rivers scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half and Los Angeles beat Charlotte.

Griffin finished two assists shy of his second triple-double in his past three games. Jamal Crawford provided a spark off the bench, scoring 22 points while going 5 for 8 on 3-pointers.

Nicolas Batum had 25 points, six rebounds and eight assists for the Hornets, who have lost nine of their past 10 games.

Bucks 116, Pacers 100

In Indianapolis, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 20 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds to help Milwaukee beat Indiana.

Mirza Teletovic made five 3-pointers and had 19 points, and Malcolm Brogdon and Greg Monroe each added 17 for the Bucks.

C.J. Miles had six 3s and scored 23 points, and Monta Ellis and Myles Turner each had 18 points for the Pacers. They have dropped three straight after a season-best seven-game winning streak.

Rockets 133, Suns 102

In Houston, James Harden scored 40 points in three quarters and Houston never trailed against short-handed Phoenix.

Houston led by 26 at halftime and opened the second half with a 14-3 run, led by six points from Harden, to make it 91-54 with nine minutes left in the third quarter.

Harden made three 3-pointers in the third quarter, capped by one from the top of the key with about 30 seconds left that

gave him 40 points. He found Sam Dekker on an alley-oop after that, and the Rockets got a huge ovation when Dekker finished with a one-handed dunk to make it 111-77 entering the fourth quarter.

The Suns were playing without starters Eric Bledsoe and Tyson Chandler, who didn't make the trip for a scheduled day of rest after Phoenix played Chicago at home on Friday night. Devin Booker had 18 points for the Suns, who lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Mavericks 112, Magic 80

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews scored 12 of his 20 points in the first quarter, and Dallas cruised past Orlando.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 14 points in 18 minutes, hitting a 3-pointer to give Dallas its first 30-point lead at 67-37 in the first minute of the third quarter before going to the bench for good a little more than six minutes later.

The Mavericks won for the sixth time in eight games—including three victories against division leaders—in what's becoming a turnaround season.

Celtics 112, Jazz 104

In Salt Lake City, Isaiah Thomas scored 29 points and Kelly Olynyk added 19 to help the Boston Celtics defeat the Utah Jazz for their ninth win in their last 10 games.

Gerald Green and Al Horford each added 16 points, and Horford also had eight rebounds.

The Celtics swept the season series with Utah after beating the Jazz 115-104 on Jan. 3.

Gordon Hayward scored 25 points and George Hill added 22 to lead the Jazz, who could not overcome poor shooting and struggled to get defensive stops during critical stretches.

Mired in more turbulent times, can Knicks find a way out?

NEW YORK (AP)—When Charles Oakley was yanked from his seats and put into handcuffs, the New York Knicks didn't just embarrass a stalwart from their past.

They may have ensured more futility in their future.

Current and former players and people around the NBA, already puzzled by the Knicks' treatment this season of Carmelo Anthony, were in disbelief at what they saw happening to Oakley on Wednesday night.

The 6-foot-8 former Knick was arrested and dragged away from his seats during a game, and Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan banned Oakley from the arena on

Friday. That came after team president Phil Jackson tweeted a dig/a about Anthony and his will to win on Tuesday.

"If you're a (free agent) to be, why would you play for an Owner who treats the past greats like this or a President who stabs star player in the back?" Hall of Fame player Reggie Miller wrote on Twitter.

Free agency is a problem for July. For now, the Knicks (22-33) are stumbling to the Feb. 23 trade deadline.

They end another turbulent week Sunday against the San Antonio Spurs, a model of stability and success—everything New York isn't. A couple of wins would halt the

Knicks' slide in the standings, but the fallout from what's happened off the court won't be so easy to fix.

"I think the other night, what happened is just an accumulation of an incident on top of an incident on top of everything that's going on that's surrounding the New York Knicks organization right now," Anthony said.

"It's just kind of this cloud over us right now that we have to figure out a way to get out of it, and I think you have to be in it, you have to be going through it in order to understand it. From the outside looking in, it looks bad, and it's even worse when you're

going through it."

Dolan made it clear Friday that Phil Jackson will be the one who leads them out of it—if Jackson wants. Either side can opt out of the remaining two years of Jackson's five-year contract this summer, but Dolan said during an ESPN Radio interview that he plans to give his president of basketball operations the full five years—and maybe even more.

And he pledged again to allow Jackson to make all the basketball decisions, which will include whether to seek a trade for Anthony or re-sign Derrick Rose.

The 32-year-old Anthony's salary, age and ability to de-

cline any trade make it difficult for the Knicks to find a deal that works for both sides, and a long-term contract for Rose could be risky given his injury history and the questions he created about his own commitment when he skipped a game this season without alerting team officials.

Jackson hasn't given much reason for confidence that he has the answers. The Knicks had their worst record ever in his first full season and are 71-148 since that 2014-15 campaign, and the damage he's done to his relationship with Anthony makes it look like he's better at fracturing a team than building one.

Many Marlins fans applaud possible ownership change



M I A M I

(AP)—One of several long lines at the Miami Marlins' fanfest stretched past the beer and pizza kiosks, beyond a stairwell, an elevator, rest rooms and the team store, as fans waited more than 30 minutes for an autograph from Severino Gonzalez, a pitcher with four career victories.

But then Marlins fans are accustomed to waiting. It has been eight years since their team had a winning season, and 14 years since Miami's most recent playoff game.

So on Saturday, many Marlins loyalists were delighted their wait for an ownership change might soon be over. Joshua Kushner, whose older brother is an adviser to President Donald Trump, has a preliminary agreement to buy the franchise from Jeffrey Loria for about \$1.6 billion, a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations said Friday.

"Spectacular," said George Casali, waiting with his two teenage sons in the line for Gonzalez's autograph. "Anybody but Loria. I don't like him as an owner. I'm a Marlins fan, but I'm not a Loria fan."

Among more than 20 people interviewed at fanfest regarding news of a possible deal, all but two said they were glad Loria might sell. And these were people who regularly attend games. There are many baseball fans in South Florida who say they refuse to set foot in Marlins Park because of Loria.

"He did never anything good for the team," said season-ticket holder George Gonzalez, perhaps jumping the gun by speaking of Loria's ownership tenure in the past



AP
In this May 31, 2016, file photo, Miami Marlins owner and CEO Jeffrey Loria walks through the dugout after a baseball game between the Marlins and the Pittsburgh Pirates, in Miami.

preliminary agreement to sell.

Loria's age is not a factor, Samson said, but the owner took very hard the death of ace Jose Fernandez in a boat crash near the end of last season.

"Devastated is the word I would use," Samson said.

Kushner, 31, is a New York City businessman and investor and part of the real estate family that also includes Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law and an adviser to the president. Joshua is Jared's younger brother.

Those relationships prompted jokes that the Marlins will move to Mar-a-Lago. But season-ticket holder Gonzalez, for one, doesn't anticipate the president will soon be tweeting about the Marlins.

"Trump has nothing to do with it," Gonzalez said. "He has too many big things to worry about to be worrying about a baseball team."

For the moment the team remains Loria's, and he'll be at spring training when the team opens camp next week in Jupiter, Florida, Samson said. Loria approved increasing payroll by one-third this season to about \$100 million, raising speculation he wanted a competitive team to make it more appealing to potential buyers.

The playoff drought, the longest in the National League, might end before Loria's tenure.

"All I can tell you," Samson said, "is I sit here happy with where I think the Marlins are."

tense. "Every time we had good players, he sold them out. We were looked at as a farm team instead of a major league team."

Loria's unpopularity stems from the team's perennially low payrolls, and a financing agreement for 5-year-old Mar-

lins Park widely viewed as unfair to taxpayers.

It hasn't helped the New York art dealer's reputation for draining money from the Marlins that his selling price in the preliminary agreement is 10 times more than what he paid for the franchise in 2002.

Kushner's final offer could be much lower than \$1.6 billion. Other interested parties might yet outbid Kushner.

Team president David Samson would neither confirm nor deny that Loria, 76, plans to sell. But Samson said the team is approached by a prospective

buyer once on a month on average, and Loria is receptive to offers.

"You always listen to anything," Samson said. "That's responsible."

Samson said he spoke this week with Commissioner Rob Manfred about reports of a

New Twins leadership counts on young talent to lead revival

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The first step toward fortifying the fallen Minnesota Twins was a change in leadership, with chief baseball officer Derek Falvey plucked from Cleveland's front office and general manager Thad Levine hired from Texas.

The revamp stopped there, though, during an inaugural offseason for the new regime that was more methodical than it was a makeover.

"There are some great people here, some great players here. We never had any intention to come in here with a bulldozer and risk losing great players, great people, by making short-sighted, rash decisions," Levine said.

Byron Buxton, Max Kepler and Miguel Sano form the under-25 core of a lineup that ranked sixth in total bas-

es in the American League in 2016 despite a club-record 103 losses. Second baseman Brian Dozier returns from a 42-home run season after trade talks fizzled.

"You can't really dwell on youth anymore, and I think that's going to be a huge factor moving forward," Dozier said, adding: "You've got to recognize you're playing with the big boys up here and you can't make the same mistakes you made last year that cost you ballgames."

Here are some key angles to follow as the Twins start spring training, with pitchers and catchers reporting on Monday:

NOT-SO-NEW LOOK

The only major roster move this winter was the signing of catcher Jason Castro

to a three-year, \$24.5 million contract to replace Kurt Suzuki. Castro batted only .215 over the last three seasons combined for Houston, but the 29-year-old has been lauded for his work behind the plate with pitch calling and framing.

YOUNGSTER TO WATCH

The awkward experiment with Sano in right field was scrapped at midseason after he missed a month because of a strained left hamstring. He still hit 25 homers despite the distraction, the injury and playing overweight. Now he can settle in at third base. The Twins remain bullish on Sano's ability to replicate the .916 on-base-plus-slugging percentage he posted as a rookie (rather than his .781 mark last year) as well as his

defensive potential.

"Still going to be some growing pains there as he settles in, and we've got to see how he will respond to potentially playing that position a high number of games," manager Paul Molitor said. "Just a guy you want to try to find a way to keep on the field."

YOUNGSTER TO WATCH II

Buxton was sent back to Triple-A twice last season for relief from his hitting struggles, but his return in September from the second demotion yielded a tantalizing performance by the fleet-footed center fielder: six doubles, two triples, nine home runs, 22 RBIs and a .357 on-base percentage over his final 29 games.

"We haven't given up on the ceiling that has been created for him," Molitor said. "Good athletes have a way of figuring things out, and I don't think there are many better athletes in the game."

THEY'RE SET

With Buxton, Dozier, Kepler and Sano in place, production from Castro and first baseman Joe Mauer, the three-time batting champion who has hit just .267 over the last three years, will be a bonus.

Ervin Santana is the one sure bet in the rotation. Brandon Kintzler, Ryan Pressly, Taylor Rogers and newcomer Matt Belisle form the backbone of the bullpen, with three-time All-Star closer Glen Perkins coming off surgery to repair a torn

labrum that ruined his 2016.

THEY'RE NOT

The spotlight this spring will be on pitchers Jose Berrios, Tyler Duffey, Kyle Gibson, Phil Hughes and Hector Santiago. They made a combined 87 starts last season, with an abysmal cumulative 6.02 ERA. Hughes was the only one who wasn't healthy. Trevor May could displace one of them in his transition back from middle relief, and 39-year-old Ryan Vogelsong is in camp on a minor-league contract as another option.

Jorge Polanco must improve defensively to be trusted as the regular shortstop, with the reliable Eduardo Escobar at the ready if he doesn't. Eddie Rosario (left field) and Kennys Vargas (designated hitter) will again have chances to be everyday players.

NMIFA Coaching Clinic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tinian Premier Football Club's Phil Mendiola-Long, third left, asks questions to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita during a coaching clinic held last Feb. 4 at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Kanoa Football Club's Catherina Attao-Toves, center, dribbles during a drill while two other coach look on.



A coach starts the dribbling drills while NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita guides her.



NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita gives participants pointers in coaching.

NMIFA staff Jerswin Angeles, right, urges Tinian Premier Football Club's Arley Long to finish the drill.



NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita gestures to participants before starting a drill.

NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita and other participants of the clinic watch Kanoa FC's Melanie Santos dribble around the cones.



NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita answers questions from one of the participants of the clinic.





**Durant leads
Warriors to win
in return to
Oklahoma City**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Many Marlins
fans applaud
possible
ownership change**

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rollers 1 upsets Sonics in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rollers 1 stole the thunder from the erstwhile unbeaten 670 Sonics following a 49-43 victory in their title showdown in the boys U16 division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics, coming into the winner-take-finale, swept the regular season and incidentally capped their perfect record in the elimination with a 65-46 rout of Rollers 1. However, the highly favored 670 Sonics failed to extend their streak and win the game that



Seeded players soldier on in Coconut Classic



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Seung Won Lee makes a baseline return to Jun Wang during their boys U12 singles game in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Top-ranked Sean Lee stayed on course for his second straight boys U14 singles division title after marching into the finals of the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Lee, who pulled off an upset over Ji Min Woo, 6-4, 6-2, in the finals of the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last year, moved a win away

from clinching his second championship in the same age group following a 6-0, 6-1 semis win over Andy Kim yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club courts. Kim made it to the semis after eliminating Rintaro Miyawaki at the upper half of the draw, 6-0, 6-2.

At the lower half of the draw, Eugene Park notched twin wins over the weekend to set up a finals duel against Lee. Park first ousted Hyunmin Cho last Saturday, 6-0,

See SEEDED on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 1's Jude Tengco drives baseline against 670 Sonics' Jester Kintaro during the fourth quarter of their title game in the boys U16 division of the TanHoldings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

mattered the most, while Rollers 1 delivered in the championship game.

Rollers 1 coach Joe Diaz pulled all the right strings to

catch the 670 Sonics off guard right from the get-go. Diaz had his wards playing pressure defense all throughout the match, frustrating Khristian

Itaas and Jester Kintaro—the top gunners of the 670 Sonics. On offense, Rollers 1 ran a variety of plays, leaving 670 Sonics' defense guessing and

allowing the eventual champions to spread the wealth.

Four Rollers 1 scored at

See ROLLERS on Page 26

Joeten, Best Deal/RNV keep win streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Joeten and Best Deal/RNV Construction are still on a roll

after easing past separate foes in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten bagged its fourth straight win after whipping McDonald's in last Thursday's second game, 106-80, while Best Deal/RNV gained its third consecutive victory following a 68-54 triumph over Docomo in the curtain-raiser last Friday.

Best Deal/RNV kept its streak despite nearly losing the match via forfeit. Only three players were available for Best Deal/RNV when the 15-minute allowable time ex-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo's Mel Manibusan is surrounded by Best Deal/RNV Construction defenders while attempting a shot during the first quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

pired. However, Docomo, as a show of sportsmanship, gave Best Deal/RNV five more minutes to complete its roster.

Andy Mortos, Ryan Odicita, Jojit Jumaquio, Joseph Corong, and Ariel Baul eventually started out for Best Deal/RNV, while three of their teammates came in midway in the first quarter with the team ahead by only 3, 13-10.

Best Deal/RNV went on to take a 19-14 advantage in the first quarter and still could not pull away in the second before the right timing came in the third. Best Deal/RNV held Docomo to 4 points in the penultimate quarter, turning a 34-29 halftime edge to a 51-33 lead. Mortos had 8 points in the surge, outgunning the entire Docomo crew. Docomo drew only one field goal apiece from Treat Kaipat and Richard Mendiola in the

See JOETEN on Page 26